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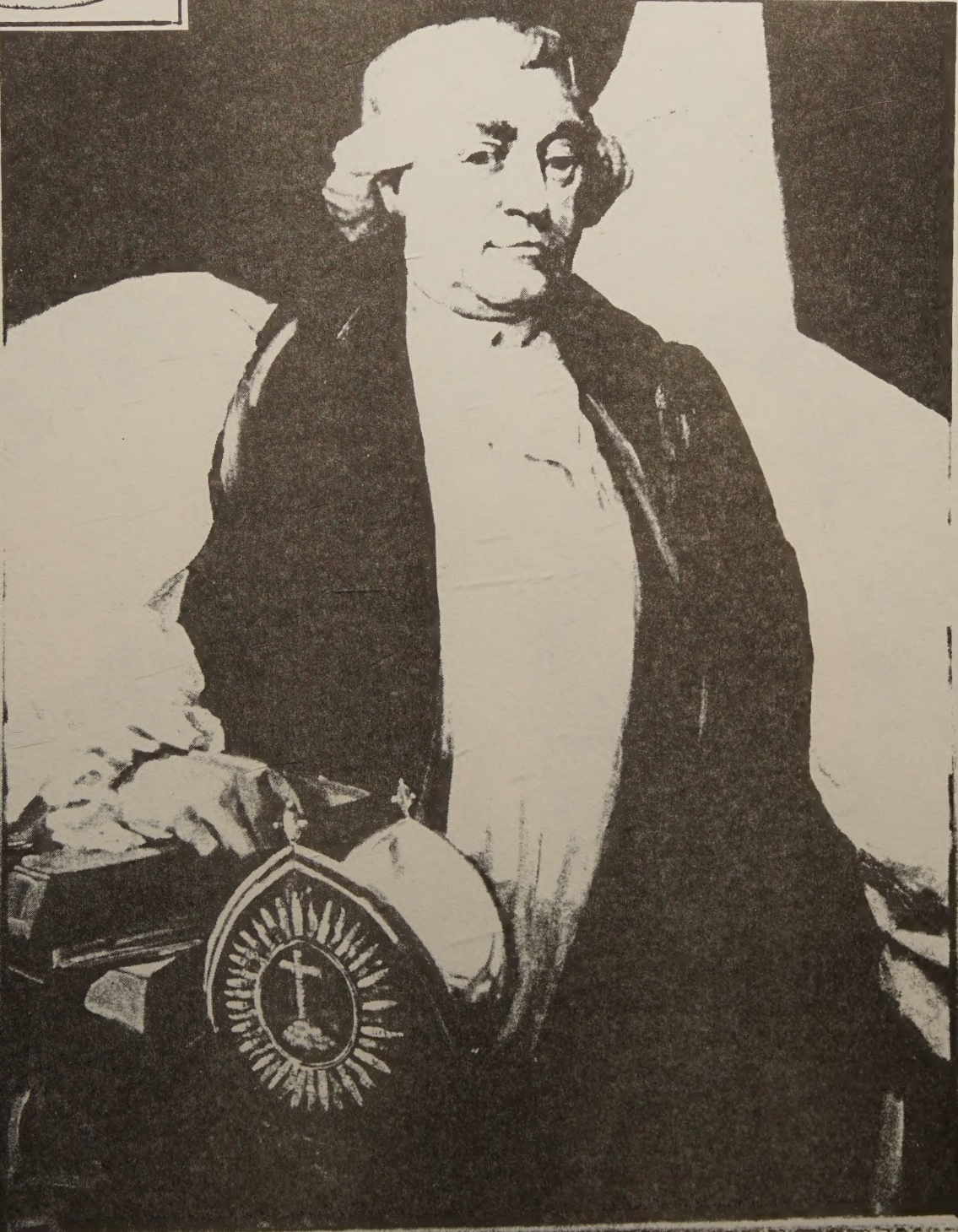
The Historiographer

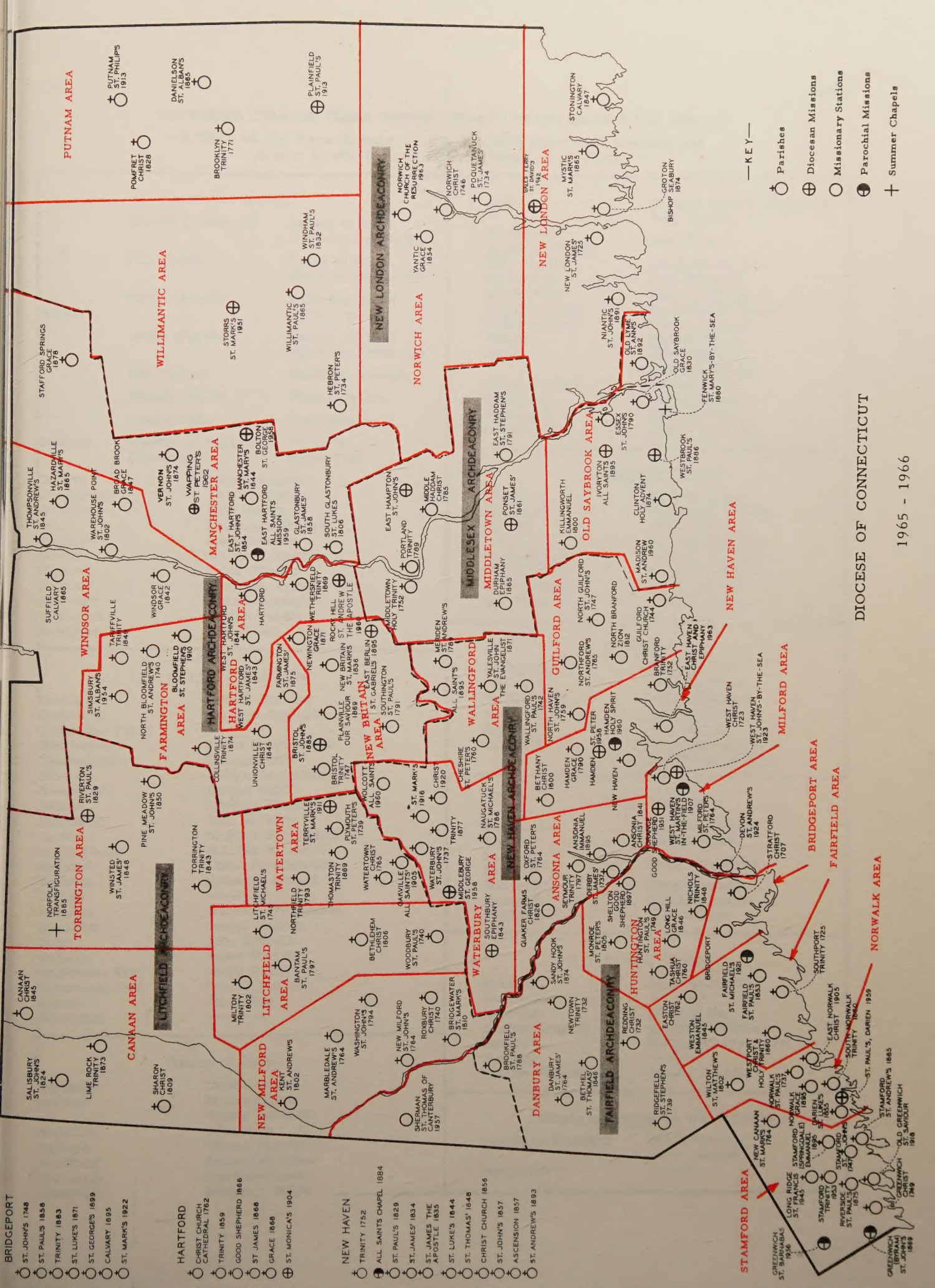
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DIocese of CONNECTICUT

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NEW ENGLAND CALVINIST CLERGY BETWEEN 1700-1707 ON THE EVE OF S.P.G. EFFORTS

A Table of the Towns Alphabetically dispos'd under each Province and County in New England with the Names of ye Clergy

County of Suffolk		Ipswich	William Hobart [Hubbard] John Rogers
Boston	Church of England	Samuel Miles Christopher Bridge	John Wise
	Old Church	James Allen Benjamin Wadsworth	Jeremiah Shepard John Emerson
	North Church	Increase Mather Cotton Mather	Samuel Chevers Christopher Toppan
	South Church	Samuel Willard Ebenezer Pemberton	Samuel Belcher Edward Paison
	New Church	Benjamin Coleman	John Higginson Nicholas Noyse
	French Church	Pierre Daille	Samuel Paris Caleb Cushing
	Anabaptists	John Emblen	Joseph Capen Joseph Gerrish
Brantry	Church of England	-----	
	Dissenters	Moses Fisk	
Dedham	Joseph Belcher	Hampshire County	
Dorchester	John Danforth	Deerfield	John Williams
Hingham	John Norton	Endfield	Nathaniel Collins
Hull	Zachariah Whitman	Hadley	Isaac Chauncy
Medfeild	Joseph Baxter	Hatfield	William Williams
Mendon	Grindale Rawson	Northampton	Solomon Stoddard
Milton	Peter Thacher	Southfield	Benjamin Ruggles
Roxbury	Nehemiah Walter	Springfield	Daniel Brewer
Weymouth	Samuel Torrey	Westfield	Edward Taylor
Woodstock	Josiah Dwight		
Wrentham	Samuel Man		
County of Middlesex		Plimouth County	
Bellerica	Samuel Whiting	Bridgewater	James Keith
Cambridge	William Brattle	Duxbury	Ichabod Wiswal
Cambridge Farms	-----	Marshfield	Edward Tompson
Charlestown	Simon Broadstreet	Middlebury	Thomas Palmer
Chelmsford	Thomas Clark	Plimouth	John Cotton
Concord	Joseph Easterbrook	Scituate	Jeremiah Cushing Zachariah Whitman
Dunstable	Thomas Weld		
Groton	Gresham Hobart	Barnstable County	
Lancaster	John Whiting	Barnstable	Jonathan Russel
Malden	Michael Wigglesworth	Eastham	Samuel Treat
Marlborough	William Brinsmett	Falmouth	Nathaniel Stone
Medford	Simon Broadstreet	Harwich	
Newtown	Nehemiah Hobart	Rochester	Samuel Arnold
Oxford	-----	Sandwich	Rowland Cotton
Redding	Jonathan Peirpoint	Yarmouth	John Cotton
Sherbone	Daniel Gookin		
Stow	John Eveleth	Bristol County	
Sudbury	James Sherman	Bristol	John Sparhawk
Watertown East	Henry Gibbs	Dartmouth	-----
Watertown West	Samuel Angier	Freetown	William Way
Woburn	Jabez Fox	Little Compton	Eliphalet Adams
Worcester	-----	Rehoboth	Nathaniel Greenwood
County of Essex		Swansey	-----
Amesbury	Thomas Wells	Tanton [Taunton]	Samuel Danforth
Andover	Francis Dean		
	Thomas Bernard	Islands belonging to the Province	
Beverley	John Hale	Martha's Vineyard	Ralph Thacher
Boxford	Thomas Symmes		----- Denham
Bradford	Zachariah Symes	Nantukett	-----
Gloicester	John Emerson		
Haverhill	Benjamin Rolfe		

Province of Mayne

Isles of Shoals	-----
Kittery	-----
Sells	-----
York	John Hancock
Pemaquid	-----
Cascoa	-----
Newichewanae	-----
Craco	-----

Province of Newhampshire

Bloody Point	-----
Dover	John Pike
Exeter	John Clark
Greenland	-----
Hampton	John Cotton
New-Castle	Samuel Moodey
Oyster River	-----
Piscataqua or	Nathaniel Rogers
Portsmouth	-----
Quochecho	-----
Sandy Beach	-----

Rode Island Government including the
Narrhaganset Country

Newport	Church of England	John Lockier
	Dissenters	Nathaniel Clap
Portsmouth	-----	
Providence	-----	
Greenwich	-----	
Rochester	-----	
Warwick	-----	

Connecticut Colony

New-haven County

Brandford	Samuel Russel
Derby	John James
Gilford	Thomas Ruggles
Milford	Samuel Andrews
New-haven	James Peirpont
Wallingford	Samuel Street

New-London County

Killingworth	Abram Peirson
Lebanon	Joseph Parsons
Lime [Lyme]	Moses Noyse
New-London	Gordon Saltonstal
Norwich	James Fitch
Pescamsik	Joseph Morse
Preston	Samuel Tread
Saybrook	Thomas Buckingham
Stonington	James Noyse

Hartford County

Farmington		Samuel Hooker
Glastenbury		Timothy Stevens
Hadham		Jeremiah Hobart
Hartford	Old Church	Timothy Woodbridge
	New Church	Thomas Buckingham
Middletown		Noadiah Russel
Symsbury		Dudley Woodbridge

Waterbury	Jeremiah Pecke
Weathersfield	Steven Mix
Windham	Samuel Whitting
Windsor	Samuel Mather
Windsor Farms	Timothy Edwards

Fairfeild County

Danbury	Seth Shove
Fairfield	Joseph Webb
Fairfield Village	Charles Chauncey
Greenwich	Joseph Morgan
Norwalk	Steven Buckingham
Rye	Nathaniel Bowers
Stamford	John Davenport
Stratford	Israel Chancey
Woodbury	Zachariah Walker

May it please Your Lordship

To Suffer Us to pay our duty, by these Worthy Gentlemen, Messieurs Cutler, Johnson, & Brown, Who propose to themselves, The Honour of waiting on your Lordship, with the Offers of their Service to the Church of England.

These Gentlemen, were all possessed of very Valuable Settlements amongst the Dissenters, Whereof they will more fully inform Your Lordship, But being Convinced of the Weakness of the Foundations, Whereupon the Frame of Schism is Erected, Have abandoned Those Principles, and are now become Noble Confessors for Episcopacy. In this Instance, They have acted upon pure Principle and Conviction, and for the Sake of their Perswasions, and the peace of their Consciences Have forsaken whatever could have been accounted near & dear unto Them, To cast themselves into the Bosom of the Church, Where we humbly hope, They will be kindly received, and tenderly Cherished.

We can assure Your Lordship, with the Utmost Confidence, That to the best of our Information, They are Gentlemen of the best of Characters, By reason of the Strictness of their Morals, Their Piety & Virtue, Which is even acknowledged by our Churches greatest Enemies. They have had the best Education this Country affords, and the greatest Advantages of Improvement; M^r Cutler having been (what they call here) Rector of a Colledge, M^r Brown a Tutor; & M^r Johnson an Ordained Minister; for Severall years in the Independent Way. So That it is not doubted, But that in Your Lordships Opinion, And in that of other The best Judges of Learning, They will be Esteemed very Valuable Proselytes.

Their meeting with your Lordships Countenance, and Approbation of their Conduct, will be a Strong Invitation for others to follow it. And Who are indeed Not far from it now, But waiting the Issue of Their Reception. Which if it be kind & Encouraging, Will have a Notable Tendency to Shake the Foundations of Schism in these Countreys. We humbly begg Your Lordships pardon for this Presumption, Having no other Motive to it, Than Our Inclinations, As well as Our Indispensible Duty of doing Justice to Meritt, and bearing Our Testimony to most Certain Truths. We are with the most profound Regards,

May It please Your Lordship Your Lordships most Dutifull & most Obedient Humble Serv^{ts}

James Honyman	Miss:
W ^m Coddington	} Church Wardens
Adam Powell	

Jn^o Brown
George Goulding
Daniel Agrault
R^d Gardner

Vestry men

Nath^l Newdigate
John Freebody
Edward Nearegreass
Jn^o Chace

At a Vestry held in Trinity-Church in Newport in
Rhode-Island, The 29th October 1722
[Bp. John Robinson]

Minutes of the S.P.G., 17 May 1723. Present, The
Dean of Ely, M^r Arch Deacon Stubbs, S^r George Wheeler,
D^r John Marshall, M^r Oliver, D^r Nathaniel Marshall,
M^r Bretton, M^r Rival, M^r Bridges

The Dean of Ely in the Chair

Prayers

M^r Isaac Behaghel was propos'd a third time and
by balloting was chose a Member of the Society.

It was reported from the Committee that they had
taken into consideration a Letter from his Excellency
General Nicholson to the Society dated South Caro-
lina 11th January 1722 and observing from a Paragraph
therein that his Excellency desires the Society to ad-
vance seven pounds each to the three Gentlemen lately
arriv'd from New England for the receiving Episcopal
Ordination, to enable them to pay for their Passage
back to New England promising to repay the said money
to the Society, and Agreed as their Opinion that the
Society be moved to order seven pounds each to be paid
to the Rev^d M^r Cutler and M^r Johnson for their Pas-
sages back to New England, and that the said Sum be
charged to his Excellency General Nicholsons Account
in the next Audit. Agreed by the Society that Twenty
one pounds be paid to M^r Cutler and M^r Johnson upon
their giving Security to repay seven pounds thereof
design'd for M^r Brown deceased in case it shall not
be allow'd by the General.

Also that they had read a Letter from the Rev^d M^r
Pouderous to M^r Rival dated S^t James's Santee in
South Carolina the 20th Jan^y 1723 to them referr'd
as also a Memorial inclosed therein giving an account
of his Services to the Church, and the hardships he
lyes under from the losses he has sustain'd by the
late inundation there, and that he is obliged to go
sixty Miles to buy Provisions at a very dear rate;
and thereupon agreed to recommend his Case to the So-
ciety as a Compassionate Case and deserving their
consideration. It appearing to the Society that he
has been formerly allow'd twenty pounds, it was pro-
pos'd a first time that he be allow'd ten pounds more
upon account of his Services, and his sufferings by
the late inundation.

The Treasurer laid before the Board his Account
of Receipts and Payments from the Anniversary Meeting
to this day and the ballance due to the Society is
344^l.--s.11d.

Several Letters were opened and referr'd to the
Committee. Adjourn'd to the third ffryday in June
at ten in the forenoon.

Boston Nov^r ?1st 1722

We the Subscribers, Being desired By M^r Timothy
Cutler Late Rector of Yale Colledge, and M^r Samuel
Johnson, Late Independent Minister of Westhaven in
Connecticut, and M^r Daniell Brown Late Tutor of the
abovesaid Colledge, To wait upon his Excellency Sam-
uell Shute, and one their Parts, To Begg of his Ex-
cell^y That the Oaths that are usual to be taken to
y^e Gouvernement, as a security from y^e subject to the
Gouvernement, Might be now tendered unto them, to take
away all suspicion of their being Dissaffected to the

Gouvernement, Upon our acquainting His Excellency
with it, His Excellency The Gouv^t was pleased to
Make answer, That he would neither Medle nor make
with it, and this we testify to be truth

Samuel Myles

Presbyter of the Church of England
and Minister of his Maj^{ties} Chappel
in Boston in New England
Geo. Steuart one of the Vestrymen of
the said Church

May it please Yo^r Lordship

We the Minister, Church Wardens and Vestry of the
Kings Chappel in Boston in New England humbly wait
on Yo^r Lordship begging leave to lay before You the
present state of the Church in this place.

It hath pleas'd Almighty God, to bless the Vine
which his Right Hand hath here planted and committed
to Yo^r Care with a very fruitful Encrease, it has
taken deep Root and now begins to fill the Land. The
Number of Strangers, and Converts who are daily added
unto the Church are become so Considerable, that we
are under the Necessity of Erecting another House for
the publick Worship of God in this Town.

In Order to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ,
by Carrying on a Work so indispensably Necessary for
his Service God hath blest us (we hope) wth Unanimity
& a General Disposition to promote, and under Yo^r
Lordships influence and Favour, finish what is so
much Wanted and desired here. And we most humbly ad-
dress our Selves to our Right Reverend Diocesan, that
he would be pleased in his Abundant Love and Care for
the Flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made him
Overseer to regard this distant portion thereof, by
continuing his Care and protection of Us in this
Undertaking.

Among many who have Return'd to the Bosom of the
Church, We in a particular manner Embrace, and with
all due Deference recommend to Yo^r Lordships Approba-
tion & Favour M^r Timothy Cutler late Rector of Yale
College in Connecticut, M^r Daniel Brown late Tutor
in the Same, and M^r Samuel Johnson late a Dissenting
Teacher in West haven in Connecticut.

These my Lord were persons very Considerable in
their Stations in these parts, and have Signaliz'd
themselves in behalf of the Church, by publickly de-
claring themselves of it, and as publickly asserting
its Rights and Maintaining its Dignity against all
Opposers. They are persons of an Unblemish'd Charac-
ter. Well affected to y^e present Gouvernement their
publick declaration was no Sudden Emotion, but a
work of Time perfected with maturest Deliberation in
pure Love to the Truth and against a visible worldly
Interest.

Of their Qualifications Yo^r Lordship is the Great
and Consummate Judge and their Sincerity in this af-
fair we have Sufficient Reasons to believe Unques-
tionable upon which, We humbly request that Yo^r Lord-
ship if so be it may seem good unto you would be
pleas'd to grant unto them Holy Orders, and this
We move with the greater Earnestness, because fully
persuaded Yo^r Lordship will then put it into their
power, to become Signal Instruments of Reducing Many
(whose Eies are upon them) to the Obedience and Unity
of the Church.

M^r Timothy Cutler is a person so well Esteemd in
this place, that no Encouragem^t will ever be wanting
should Yo^r Lordship please to grant him Yo^r Licence
for the Church now to be built in this place, which
We most humbly Entreat Yo^r Lordship to do, and we

have no other View herein, no other Motives inducing us thereto, but a firm Belief that the Church of God will recieve great Benefit thereby, as being the most suitable person in our humble Opinion this Country affords to serve it on this Occasion, and advance its Number and Interest, and we make no Question but his Maintenance will be suitable to his Great Merit.

The Contributions advanc'd for this Undertaking are about £1200 and the Ground purchased whereon to Erect the Church and our Contributions are Daily Advancing so desirous and Earnest are we to see so good a Work begun.

The Church of God has always on such Occasions as these had its Enemys. A Nehemiah never appeard to Erect a Temple to God, but some arose to hinder it, and cause the Work to Cease. Representations may peradventure be made to our disadvantage upon this head, which makes us renew our assurances to Yo^r Lordship that we have no Interest, no other View but the pure Glory of God, and the Advancement of his Kingdom upon Earth which Encourages us to believe, we shall not be disappointed of our Hope

May it please Almighty God, to shower his Blessings down upon Yo^r Lordships Head may He continue You long an Ornament and pillar to his Church upon Earth, and having finisht Yo^r Glorious & appointed Race, may he Recieve You into Everlasting Glory is the Constant prayer of

My Lord Yo^r Lordships most humble and obedient Sons and Servants

Samuel Myles Minister

Jn^o Cutler } Churchwardens

James Smith }

Jn^o Blount

G^{eo} Steuart

Cyprian Southack

Tho: Selby

John Jekyll Coll^r of

his Maj^{ties} Customs

Francis Brinley

Edward Mills

George Cradock

[Bp. John Robinson]

My Lord [Bp. John Robinson]

I take this Opportunity to present my humble Duty to y^r L^{dp} by y^e Hands of M^r Cutler, who comes over wth Desire to receive Holy Orders, and haveing obtained y^r L^{ps} License to return hither in order to officiate in y^e Church y^t is to be Erected in this Town, And I shou'd be wanting in my Duty, shou'd I not do Him and y^e other Gentlemen y^t accompany him y^t Justice, as to assure y^r L^p, that They are all well affected to y^e Government, and of Good Lives, and sober Conversation, and have taken no small Paines to inform themselves in y^e Nature of our Excellent Constitution, and freely to satisfie themselves of th^r Duty to receive Episcopal Ordination. And when they are ordained, and sent over here, will, without doubt be very Zealous and Industrious to promote y^e Interest of y^e Church, and Proselyte such who are so unhappy as to remain out of Her Communion.

M^r Harriss has set himself to oppose these Gentlemen, and Unjustly to asperse 'em and in so doing has incurred y^e Displeasure of our People in General. But I hope y^t No Misrepresentations will be entertained to theyr Prejudice, and prevail against y^e Just and true, and full Account we ha' given of 'em to my L^d of Cant. y^r L^p and y^e Society. But y^t y^r L^p according to y^r Wisdom and Goodness will Vouchsafe to these

worthy Persons all Favour and Encouragement. And y^t I may not be farther tedious, I shall onely beg y^r L^p to be assured y^t I shall not be wanting to attend all Occasions to give Proof, y^t there's none more yⁿ

I am y^r L^{ps} most humble Serv^t, and most obedient Son

Samuel Myles

Boston New-England

November 3. 1722

Most Honoured Lord [Bp. John Robinson]

Being by Y^r Lordships Licence and a Mission from the Honourable Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Forreign parts appointed to fill the Church of S^t Pauls in Narraganset in New England, I esteem my Self bound in duty to Embrace Every proper occasion of acquainting y^r Lordship with the State of the Church here which tho placed among Numbers of Quakers, Baptists, Antipadobaptists, Saturday baptists, and some Independents, yet Increases by a Considerable number dayly added Thereto by Baptism, Several of whom are Adult Persons and among some Natives; The Increase of Communicants the year past are only four And the Children of some few familys have dureing this Lent season Duely attended in the Church and Before the Congregation publicly repeated the Catechism, w^{ch} they perform wth Such decency and distinctness that several Parents Express so Great a likeing to and Satisfaction in the christian and Careful Methods used by the church of England in Training up her youth, that I'm given Strongly to hope it will be the future Endeavor and Ambition of most Parents that themselves Come to Church more Carefully to see to the Education of their children and w^{ch} Besides Catechizeing in church I Endeavor to Contribute my utmost to by visiting the Schools and Catechizeing in them. Wee have formerly May it please your LordShip acquainted you y^t the furniture of our Pulpit and Communion Table w^{ch} was the Gift of the Late Queen Ann of Blessed memory to the church of Narraganset was without any order from y^r LordShip or Predecessor Carried to Stretford in Connecticut Colony from whence we Can't possibly Recover the Same without an Order from y^r LordShip, which I humbly beg leave once more to Intreat y^r LordShip to transmitt me Directed to y^e Church wardens and Vestry of Stretford in Connecticut, Since the order w^{ch} the Church people here formerly had from y^r former L^d BP of London, is lost

I have further May it please your LordShip to Be-seech you to Espouse the Cause of the Church of England in New Bristol, where the Independents have Insulted the Members of y^e church of England to an uncommon Degree that through means of your Lordships Interposition there may be as Speedy an Issue put to their grievances as possible. Y^r Lordship being already addressed on that head Excuses me from Descending to the particular Insults they dayly Receive, Only they have desired me in Mine w^{ch} your Lordship will perceive of much Later Date than theirs, (that whereas They are Given to Understand that their Independent Enemys here, have Represented both the min^r and People that Go to church in Bristol att home in England to be Jacobites and Dissaffected to his pres-ent Majesties Person and Government,) that nothing can possibly be charged upon them more untrue and as farther Testimony thereof I Doe assure your Lordship that to my certain knowledge the Principal Gentlemen who Built the New Church in that town, are well affected to the present Constitution both in church

and State, and some of them belonging to the Court of Common pleas and others Being officers in the Militia have upon all Proper occasions taken and never att any time refused the oaths Enjoined by Law, and tho there should be a nonjuror represented to be among them yet I beg leave to assure y^r Lordship he is no other wise Concerned in y^e affairs of y^t Church than y^t he is a Common hearer and but lately come thither. My Lord the Independents however they Endeavor to blacken the Members of the church of England by such odiums will not I hope gain much upon men of your Lordships penetration whilst you consider y^t not one Independent teacher in New England that Ever I heard of have taken the Oaths Required of their Brethren In England. If by means of your Lordships Goodness & well known zeal for the church (Especially these Infant churches in these Remote parts of your Diocese) wee can once attain the Happiness of having the Implacable Enemys of the church here, made to understand from England that y^e church is as well Established by Law here, as it is att home and that these Provinces of y^e Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and Connecticut are as well a part of your Lordships Diocese as London itself the churches in all the Parts of this Country will be seen soon to flourish, the min^{rs} of y^e Established church have their difficulties and oppositions in their min^{ry} lessened, themselves abundantly Encouraged in a Steady and cheerful prosecution of the Ends of their Mission and your Lordship have transmitted to you dayly more and more Comfortable accounts of the fruits of your Lordships Care and Protection and your Presbyters Labours I am under the Deepest sense of Duty to your Lordship

Your most obedient son and humble servant
Ja^s M^cSparran

Narraganset March 25th 1723

The Rev^d M^cSparran haveing Communicated this Letter to us assembled in a Vestry Meeting this 4th Day of april Wee beg Leave to assure y^r Lordship y^t we heartily Concur with him in the Representations of the Churches within Name[d] and hope y^r L^dShip will use your authority and Good offices for us and our Brethren att Bristol with his Majestie and the honourable Society wee are My Lord with y^e Profoundest Respect y^r Lordships most obliged servants

W ^m Browne	} Church wardens of the church of	
Tho ^s Phillips		St Paul in Kingstown in Narraganset in New England
William Gardner	} Vestry Men	George Balfour
Robert Case		Charles Dickinson Jun ^r
Cha ^s Dickinson		Jn ^o Albro
Sam ^l Albro		Henry Gardner jun ^r

Boston N Eng Jan 6 1723/4

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

I take the boldness to acquaint y^r Lordship, that on y^e 24th of Sep^t last M^c Johnson and I arrived safely here together, and M^c Wetmore in another Vessel, thro' the Goodness of God to us, to the great Joy of the Church of England, and their Thankfulness to God, who had so far prospered their Concerns and hopes. And I would thankfully ascribe to that same Goodness, that true Love and affection which I see here shown to the Church upon the best of Principles, in conjunction with a firm Loyalty to our Sovereign on the Throne, discovered at all times as much as our remoteness from the scene of action calls for.

Formerly those with us who were Friends of y^e Church, were Foreigners, mainly Persons of rambling

Dispositions, and whose courses of Life, they being Seafaring men, Souldiers and the like, were not much ornamental to the Church and engaging to our People. But now that we have an accession of sober People from abroad, and that the Power of Truth hath engaged sundry of good characters with us, and even some few in most if not all of our Towns; the true inward strength and Interest of the Church advanceth daily, as appears by numbers that come to our Church either occasionally or statedly; and the benevolent regards that others shew to our Persons and the Constitution of our Church and there are sundry Places round about where M^c Johnson lives, where there are considerable Numbers of People well affected to the establish'd Church, and ready to joyn themselves to her Communion--but being something dispersed and too poor to maintain their Ministers, I fear their Zeal will languish and dy away for want of them.

Yesterday was the second Sunday wherein I have preached in our New Church in this Town; the Expence of which Building, though very burdensome to the Members of the Church here, is yet supported by a very laudable and Persevering Zeal, and I hope God will enable us to finish it in his due time. The old Church of England here did not miss many of her constant attendants on those daies, and yet the New one was much crowded, & every part of the Service of the Church was regularly performed, and I have a prospect of a decent number for my stated Congregation.

By my Conversation here, I find, that our young People and such whose prejudices have not been for a long time riveted in them, against the Church, and that those who are disposed to think and consider, have very complyant and tractable dispositions towards the Church, and that for the most part the zeal against the Church, retires into the Leaders and Rulers of our Country and our Towns, & into our Dissenting Teachers (tho' indeed not into all of them) so that by Menaces, by solemn Warnings, by Double Taxes or Imprisonments, (the latter whereof is the Portion of y^e Church in some of our Country Towns, particularly Newberry and Bristol) our Churches are vexed and harrassed, and many terrified and discouraged from appearing in that Interest. But when God, in his due time shall bless us with a Spiritual Guide and Pastor here among us to inspect us and perform the peculiar acts of his Power and office which we now want, I doubt not but that our sufferings will be less and our Zeal and Courage the greater to bear what shall remain. This is a general prevailing desire in all the Parts of the English America excepting New-England; and the Numbers of such who openly manifest their desires here for it are not inconsiderable, and for certain there are great numbers of others who would rejoyce at it.

In the mean time, my Lord, I hope neither I or any of my Brethren shall be wanting in contributing to the Advancement of this the Kingdom of Christ with us. If I had, before I left the Kingdom, rec^d any further Advice upo[n] the Affair, I made bold to acquaint your Lordship with, I had obeyed your Commands in giving a further Account of it. I am heartily thankful for your Lordship's Blessing when I had the honour of waiting on you, and humbly beg that your Lordship would remember Me in your daily Prayers

I should be proud to receive your Lordships Commands for any Curiosities that this Country hath and shall be alwaies ready to pay all due Hon^r to your Person and Merits, and Submission to your Venerable Character in y^e Particular relation your Lordship

sustains towards us; a respect to which Character, Sir, was the only motive of y^e late Hazzards I have run; and shall be ambitious of such an estimation with your Lordship, as shall make me acceptable in the Character of

My Lord Your Lordship's Most Humble Servant
Tim^o Cutler

May it please your Lordship,

Being by the Favourable providence of God, arrived in New England, In Obedience to your Lordships Commands, when I had the Honour of being in your presence, I make bold, in all humility, to lay before your Lordship the State of this Colony of Connecticut, to which your Lordship has licenced me. The people here are generally rigid Independents, & have an inveterate Enmity against the Established Church, But of late, the Eyes of great multitudes are opened, to se[e] the great Error of Such an uncharitable & therefore unchristian Spirit. This is come to pass chiefly in six or seven Towns, whereof this of Stratford, where I reside is the principal & tho' I am unworthy & unmeet to be intrusted with such a Charge yet there is not one clergyman of the Church of England besides myself in this whole Colony & I am obliged in a great measure to neglect my Cure at Stratford (where yet there is business enough for one Minister) to Ride about to the other Towns (some ten, some twenty Miles off,) where in each of them, there is as much need of a Resident Minister, as there is at Stratford, especially at Newtown & Fairfield. So that the Case of these destitute places, as well as of myself who have this Excess of Business, is extremely unhappy & Compassionable.

Now at the same time, My Lord, there are a Considerable number of very promising young Gentlemen, five or Six I am sure of, & those the best that are educated among us, who might be instrumental to do a great deal of Good to the Souls of men, were they Ordain'd, but for want of Episcopal Ordination decline the Ministry, & go into Secular Business, being partly from themselves, & partly thro' the Influence of their Friends unwilling to expose themselves to the Danger of the Seas & Distempers, so terrifying has been the unhappy Fate of M^r Browne. So that the Fountain of all our Misery is the want of a Bishop, for whom there are many thousands of Souls in this Country do impatiently long & pray, & for want do extremely suffer.

My Lord permit me to Remember the concern your Lordship was pleased to express, for sending a Suffragan into this Country, when we were before your Lordship, which gave me the greater pleasure; because I have the Satisfaction to know, that so great is your Lordships deserved Intrest with his most Sacred Majesty K George (whom God long preserve,) that you might very probably be the first under God & the King, in effecting for us so great a Blessing.

And suffer me further, My Lord, to say, that there is not one Jacobite ore Disaffected person, in this Colony, nor above two or three (that I know of,) in America. But for want of a Loyal & Orthodox Bishop to inspect us, we be open to be misled into the wretched Maxims of that abandoned Set of Men, as well as a great many other perverse principles.

May God therefore direct your Lordships Tho'ts & Succeed your pious Endeavours, for Effecting this, or any other Good work, that may contribute to the advancement or enlargement of his Church, & may I have an Intrest in your Lordships Compassions, Prayers,

& Benedictions in the great Task that lies upon me,
I am May it please your Lordship, your Lordships most humble most faithful & most dutiful Son & Servant,

Samuel Johnson

Stratford, in Connecticut--
New England Jan. 18. 1723/4.
[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

My L^d [Bp. Edmund Gibson]!

Since my last to y^r LP y^e Inclosed has been published, w^{ch} together wth my Duty I present to y^r LP earnestly requesting y^t some of y^e Society woud please to answer, and those Books y^t may be transmitted here shall be dispersed, and y^e money returned by M^r Gillam Phillips an Eminent Bookseller in Town, or any other to whom they may be sent. And I beg Leave to say y^t 'twill not be to any purpose to send Missionaries here, when y^e people of this province are inveterately prejudiced ag^t y^e Church by y^e spreading of such pamphlets far and near.

M^r Honymans Address, who is a Sober learned man and an excellent preacher, as Gov'r Shute can assure your LP has truly and faithfully represented how our Adversaries insult and triumph. M^r Harriss almost in every Sermon makes such scurrilous Reflections, and bitter Invectives, y^t I'm afraid my Church will dwindle to nothing, if he be not provided for in England, or ordered to settle in some other Place of this Continent, where he may be of service.

If M^r Johnson, or M^r Pigot should be appointed to assist me, all my people woud be well Satisfied; or whomsoever y^r LP may appoint of good Learning, and Sober Conversation &c

Inclosed is w^t M^r Harriss bro't wth him when he came: And D^r Cutler marrying not onely those of his own Church, but such as are of mine, and Strangers, who are sometimes Here, and sometimes there, and Considering his Church is as large as mine in Number of people from whom he has a weekly Collection, w^{ch} is all I have, and y^t he hath 60^l per annum w^{ch} is near as much as my Salary here from y^e peoples Contribution, I pray y^e Favour he may be Enjoyed to marry (w^{ch} is y^e onely perquisite I have) onely such who constantly attend at his Church, y^t so I may Not be Injured on y^t account, when I so zealously promoted y^e Building y^t Church. And if y^r LP shall think fit to grant this my Request it shall be most gratefully acknowledged by, y^r LPs most humble Serv^t, and most obedient Son,

Samuel Myles

M^r Musson of Marblehead, and M^r Usher of Bristol have refused to answer y^e Queries; both under y^e Management of M^r Harriss. M^r Usher will be fined 50^l for obstinately refusing to comply wth y^e Provincial Law about Marriages, Confirmed by King and Council, w^{ch} I have tho't prudential to observe--

[Samuel Myles]

Boston June 25 1724

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]!

Y^r LP was pleased in y^e Last of y^r written Queries sent, to desire Answer w^t might farther be for y^e Good and Benefit of y^e Church in these parts. In Obedience whereto, I beg Leave to give my Opinion, wth all Submission, y^t y^e Church will never be well Settled, or Increase in these parts, unless a Bishop be appointed, and an Academy founded to be under his

Inspection, wth a Rector or President and one Tutor at first, because it can't be otherwise Expected but y^t the Students will be very few at first. And if such Colledge were Erected at Burlington, wch I humbly conceive y^e fittest Place, beeing near y^e Center between these, and y^e South Plantations of Philadelphia, Maryland, Virginia &c^t, I am very well assured y^t good Encouragement wou'd be given by numbers of Good men greatly desirous of y^e churches Prosperity, wch will be far better provided for this way, yⁿ Sending over such Missionaries, many of whom sent here, have be'n a Scandal to Religion and y^e Church by their Vicious lives. And others of such mean attainments y^t they have be'n ridiculed by such who are Educated here, who generally Study hard, and are of Sober Life.

I farther Acquaint y^r LP y^t y^e People of this Province peremptorily affirm that They are y^e Established Church, as y^r LP may find in p. 30 of y^e last Book I sent and in y^e N E Courant of June 8, They have declared in print, That y^e Churches of N England are established by Law, and are not capable of the name of Dissenters; Theyr Country being theyr own, and theyr Religion free, by Royal Grant and so far intirely within themselves. Now 'tis difficult to know w^t this Church is, where to find y^e Right amidst so many different, not to say contrary Opinions and Practises. For some use y^e Lords Prayer; others account it superstition so to do. Some are for Lay Ruling Elders, and other Independents in theyr Platform of Church Discipline P. 23 allow Laymen to ordain. And Page 24 Sec 4 They declare y^t for such Ch'es where there are no Elders or Presbyters, or Gospel Ministers Imposition of Hands may be performed by some of y^e Brethren orderly chosen by y^e church thereunto. Other disown any such Elders as unlawfull, unwarrantable; and allow of no Ordination but w^t is performed by those ordained by y^e Presbytery. some are utterly averse to y^e Anabaptists; others favour 'em, and have ordained some to officiate in theyr Meeting House in this Town. Now it must be great Arrogance in any of them to call themselves y^e Established Church in spite of y^e Act of Union, and other Acts wch have Established y^e Church of England in all his Maj^{ties} Plantations. From this Colledge and Connecticut y^e Plantations are supplied wth Dissenting Ministers; and all Imaginable Care and Paines taken for theyr settlement and Encouragement. If any of y^e Society will so far serve y^e church as to answer any or all of those Books I sent, what Number may be sent here to any Bookseller, effectual Care shall be taken for y^e due Return of Money they are sold for. I beg y^r LPs Pardon for y^e Length of this Letter, and therefore shall one add y^e Assurance of being y^r LPs most humble Servant and most obedient

Samuel Myles

Boston N England. July 17. 1724

Boston October 10: 1724

M^r Johnson.

I now answer w^t you desired of me this Day about y^e furniture in dispute, wch is, y^t I received Orders from BP Compton to deliver y^e same to M^r Bridge; which accordingly I did. Afterwards, (according to y^e best of my Remembrance, y^e BP directed y^e same to be sent to M^r Phillips, yⁿ Missionary for Stratford, wch according I did. Some time after M^r Phillips's Remove, BP Robinson sent me a Letter to use my best Care for y^e delivering y^e same to M^r Guy yⁿ Minister of Narraganset, for y^t End I wrote to y^e Church-Wardens, but

found they wou'd not part wth y^e same so y^t, it remains there at present, as you well know. This is all at present I can recollect, and remain y^r humble Serv^t and affectionate B^r

Samuel Myles

Wee The Subscribers, Members of His Majestys Chappell In Boston, Doe Certifie all persons whom it doth or may Concern, that the Reverend Doctor Timothy Cutler, hath to the best of our knowleg, Ever Since his declaring for the Church of England to this Instant behav'd himself, after a becoming and inoffensive manner, to all orders and degrees of men in this place, more Especially towards the Reverend M^r Henry Harris, and neglected no measures proper for a Clergyman, a Christian or a Gentleman, to use for gaining the Said M^r Harris's good will and to Live peaceably with him. In Testimony wherof wee have hereunto Sett our hands this first day of December In the year of our Lord 1724

Subscribed by The Reverend--

M^r Samuel Myles
James Stirling } Chh Wardens
John Barnes }

Vestry The Honourable

William Tayler Esq^r
Thomas Lechmere Esq^r
John Jekyl Esq^r
M^r Francis Brinly
M^r George Craddock
D^r John Gibbins
D^r George Stewart
M^r Thomas Selby
Cap^t John Cox
M^r William Randall

M^r Thomas Philipps
M^r William Speakman
M^r James Smith
D^r John Cutler
Robert Auchmuty Esq^r
M^r Edward Mills
Cap^t Cyprian Southack
John Read Esq^r
M^r William Pearne

The above Certificate Read at the Vestry, the Rev^d M^r Harry Harris being present, and approved of the same, likewise gave his opinion that the Said Certificate, Shoud be registred in the Church books--

A True Copy taken from the Register

New England Boston Dec^r 4. 1724 by

{ John Barnes
James Stirling
Church Wardens }

To the King's most Excellent Majesty. The humble Address of Sundry Ministers of the Church of England in New England.

May it please Your Majesty,

We the Subscribers, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, Ministers of the Church of England in New-England, at a great Distance from Your Majesty's Throne, but blest with the Influences of your most mild and gracious Government, humbly take leave in this publick Manner to make our grateful Acknowledgments to your Majesty, for that great Happiness which your transcendent Virtues and Benignity make us Sharers in, with all the Clergy and Laity that surround your Throne, and have the immediate Views of your Royal Sceptre; in Conjunction with our daily Prayers to Almighty God for the Continuance of your Life, and the Stability of your Throne; and our daily Thanks to the same most gracious Being by whom Your Majesty's Life is preserved, your Reign brightened with both Common and Distinguishing Felicities, and Futurity solaced with the promising Views of their Perpetuity in your Illustrious House.

The Principles of our Excellent Church, together

with a just Sense of these things attach us with the firmest Loyalty and Affection to your Majesty's Person, Government and Issue; and beget in us the blackest Images of Horror at the evil Practices of those who would disturb the Quiet of Your Majesty's most Glorious Reign, so much connected with our Prosperity in Church and State. And we do the more cheerfully tender these our Declarations to your Majesty, being well assured that they perfectly harmonize with the Hearts and Affections of the People of our Charge, none (we know of) excepted; which good Dispositions it hath been our Care, and is our inviolable Resolution to cherish in ourselves and Them, in opposition to the fatal Interests of a Popish Pretender, and of all Your Majesties Enemies, as a Duty important not only to our Salvation in the other World, but to all the comfort we promise ourselves in this.

And therefore we rest in hopes of deriving from so wise, so gracious, so powerful a Prince all the Tenderness and Protection we can desire to our Persons and Churches, struggling with many Difficulties in our infant & weak Condition, which we humbly presume will be much raised, whenever we shall be made happy with One whom Your Majesty shall think worthy of the Episcopal Character with us, whereby we shall also be enabled to give more conspicuous Proofs of our firm allegiance to Your Majesty: being fully perswaded that the Mitre is not only supported by but doth gratefully reflect both Strength and Lustre on the Crown.

May such a Blessing crown all the Goodness which Your Sacred Majesty, our Tender Nursing Father vouchsafes to us, and may a bright Series of Fame and Glory equal the Length of your remaining Reign & Life, and when we must be happy with your Royal Influences no more, may your Crown and Virtues be transmitted to Your Posterity for ever, Your Rest be Glorious, and Your Toyls and Care infinitely rewarded in a better World.

So pray Your Majesty's most Loyal
and most Obedient Subjects

Timothy Cutler
Samuel Myles
James Honyman
James McSparran
Matthias Plant
George Pigot
Samuel Johnson

Newport on Rhode-Island
in New-England
21st July 1725.

25 Nov^r 1725

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Finding yo^r Lordship engag'd this Even. I take leave to cover the enclosed as one of my Errands, and to request M^r Pawlet may give me a line of yo^r L^{dps} pleasure therein, there being a Ship now going to Rhode-Island by whom I can write.

I have advice that the Letters yo^r Lordship was pleas'd to trust me wth a few months since for several Gov^{ts} in America got safe to Boston.

I should be glad to know yo^r L^{dps} inclinations to favour M^r Hopkin's Son according to his desire some time since. The good man has wrote again to me, but the days are so Short & I have so much to do at home that I have not been able to wait on yo^r L^d unless at an unseasonable hour as I do now.

The Church of Eng^ld Min^r at Connecticut hopes by yo^r L^{dps} favour that the people who resort to the Chh of Eng^ld there shall not be oblig'd to pay double Taxes; I am My Lord Y^r most obed^t humble Servant
Henry Newman

Boston May 9 1726

My Lord

This waits on your Lordship, to recommend to your Favour M^r Miller the Bearer hereof, whom your Lordship will find to come very well recommended to the Hon^{ble} Society, both for his Learning & good Life, as well as for his undoubted good affection to the present Government. All which I likewise gladly give my Testimony to, haveing been well acquainted with him nigh three years. And I am well satisfied, (should the Hon^{ble} Society employ him) He will prove a very worthy Missionary.

He would be particularly acceptable at Brantry who petition for him to the Hon^{ble} Society, & have for so poor a people, done very great things, having advanced an 100 pounds on this occasion & promised 12 pounds per an. which they will make large additions to, when they have got thro' the Burthen of Building their Church in which they are now engaged. In the mean time they are but few & poor & oppressed with Taxes to the Dissenters, as the Generality of our people continue to be. I hope these & the like Considerations will recommend them to your Lordships, & the Hon^{ble} Societys Compassions.

My Lord, I should think it happy for my worthy Friend M^r Wetmore, as well as for the better answering the Ends of the Hon^{ble} Society, if the Reasons which will be laid before your Lordship & them, might prevail for the removing him from N. York into the Country, either to Rye or Westchester which are vacant. His Salary from N. York people is but mean & precarious. As the Society's Catechist he does nothing more than what their School Master for 5^l per an. might & would do. So that it is the Opinion of every Body, I have heard Speak of it here That their Bounty might be much more advantageously bestowed upon some poor Country people that are destitute. And indeed M^r Wetmores Tallents are buried there, which might be very Serviceable in the Country. But all this with Submission

I am, My L^d Y^r Lordships most humble most Obedient
& dutifull Son & Servant

Samuel Johnson

My L^d of London [Edmund Gibson]

New London Feb^ry 8th 1726/7

Right Reverend Father in God.

Wee the Subscribers Inhabitants of New London in his Majesties Colony of Connecticott in New England and the Vicinage thereof, haveing Never Since our first Settlement had the Gospel of Christ nor its comfortable Sacraments Administred to us by any Episcopal Minister resident among us, whereby sundry Persons, bred up in the Church of England at Home, others that have been Baptized here and become Conformists and a greater Number still strongly enclined to Conformity do labour under that last and Most grievous Unhappiness of being left to our Selves, and leaveing our Posterity in this Wilderness excluded as Wilde uncultivated Trees, from the Saveing Benefits of a Transplantation, into that Soundest Part of the Holy Catholick Church, which deservedly distinguishes your Lordship with the Sacred Character of One of the principal Guides, beg your Lordships Fatherly Compassions on our truly pitiable Circumstances.

Wee are (may it please your Lordship) distant about forty four Miles from the Church of Narraganset, the nearest Church of England to us; but by the frequent Visits of the Rev^d M^r McSparran the Incumbent of that Place (who by the Space of four years last past hath

visited us at least four times in each Year) there have been Several adults and Infants baptized, a Considerable Auditory gatherd and a Church raised and already enclosed in the Center of New-London Town, which we hope to have finished by the Next Fall. Wee have by an address of this Date, layd our Case before the Honourable the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in fforreign Parts for their Charitable Assistance towards the Support and Encouragement of such Clergyman as Your Lordship shall think to Send us; and we beg y^r Lordships Countenance to these our Proceedings.

But if (as we are given to fear) the Honourable Society Should reject our Prayer because we have not transmitted a Particular of what we are able and willing to Contribute Annually towards the Support of a Missionary, we beg Leave to assure your Lordship that as Soon as the Burthen of building our Church which lyes heavey upon our small Number is a little lightened, nothing shall then retard our perfecting and transmitting such a Subscription as shall at least Manifest how earnestly we covet the Happiness we now pray for. In the Meantime, we crave the Favour of y^r Lordships Motion to the Society, that Some Small Encouragement and Instructions be given to the most contiguous Missionary to officiate occasionally among us, till we are made happy with a Resident One of our own. We pray y^r Lordship to take our Case into your Compassionate Consideration and beg y^r Blessing upon y^r distant but dutyfull Sons & Servants.

James Smith	Walter Butler
John Merrett	Samuel fairbanck
John Braddick Jn ^r	Lambeth Tree
George Smith	Richard Wyatt
Robert Whitwill	Thomas Mumford jun ^r
John Shacknaple	Jarrard pell
John Braddick	James Tilley
Thos: Mumford	Joseph Salman
Moses Parnell	Sam ^l Burrows
Paul Frayser	

[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

May it please Your Lordship

As we heartily embrace this Occasion of our being together to consult the best Methods of promoting the Designs of our Mission to wait upon Your Lordship with our humble Duty, so to acknowledge our Obligations to be Great unto Your Lordship for your paternal Care and Endeavours to procure a Bishops being sent into these Countrys an Advantage so great to the Interest of Religion and the Church here, that were it possible (which indeed can hardly be concieved) for Your Lordship to have full and equal apprehensions of the absolute Necessity of our having one to protect us from the Frowns of the Charter Governments (the Officers whereof are all of them well nigh to a Man professed Enemies to the Constitution of our Church and its Establishment in these parts) To direct our Conduct in our Charges and to one another. To oblige the unruly and the Insolent to observe their Duty, and preserve the Dignity of their Characters To confirm our Youth and for many other ends and Reasons. The thought must needs mightily invigorate Your Applications till You had overcome all the difficulties of obtaining One for us

We would therefore pray Your Lordship in Your Goodness to continue to improve your Interest which is so deservedly great both at Court & in the Church in Solliciting so great a Blessing for us

We would also humbly intreat Your Lordship to take

into your compassionate Concern the pitiable Case of the Members of our Churches in these Governments where they are distressed by Fines and Imprisonments if they scruple to contribute to the Support of Dissenting Teachers, whereby not only others are discouraged from Joyning our Communion, which cannot protect them from Injuries and unjust Invasions on their properties, but themselves disabled from contributing to our subsistence according to the just Expectations of the Hon^{ble} Society, in prevailing for a repeal of those Laws that impose taxes on our people to the support of those Churches which in the Sense of the Government are neither National nor Provincial

We beg Your Lordships Blessing and are with profound Veneration, May it please Yo^r Lordship

Your Lordships most Obedient & most humble Servants

Timothy Cutler
Samuel Myles
James Honyman
Ja^s McSparran
Matthias Plant
George Pigot
Samuel Johnson

Boston in New England

May 2^d 1726.

[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty. The Address of Several Ministers of the Church of England in New England.

Most Gracious Sovereign

We Your Majesties most Dutifull and Loyal Subjects being fully Sensible of the most Just Foundations and great Felicities of your auspicious Reign, do humbly beg leave to joyn with the rest of our Fellow-Subjects more nearly Surrounding Your Throne, in assuring Your Majesty that We are as deeply touched with a Sense of the Vile tho' Contemptible Efforts, in favour of a Popish pretender, that would disturb its Repose And We humbly hope that our vast Distance from the Events in Europe will plead an Apology for our so late Expressing the Detestation We conceive of the Injustice as well as Ingratitude of the Measures which have been Concerted for disquieting a Government ever turning upon the Hinges of Justice and Benignity; equally and ardently contributing to the pleasure and Advantage of the Happy Subject.

And that these our Sentiments may be firmly impressed and ever remain in the minds of your Majesties Subjects under our care We shall embrace every Opportunity to convince them what intire Satisfaction they ought to take in the Wisdom and Goodness of your Administrations. On which Occasion as Loyalty to Your Majesty the Best of Princes shall be the Theme, so considerations from another World added to the Strongest Obligations to Gratitude for the many and great Benefits enjoyed thro' the Whole Course of Your Reign, Shall be the Arguments and Motives to enforce the Duty.

That Your Sacred Person may always be the peculiar care of Providence, Your Posterity the never-failing Heirs of both Your Virtues and Dominions, Your Arms the Terror of your Enemies as well as the Security of your Allies, and the Defence of your Subjects: and when you have triumphed over Those, and been long the Refuge and protection of These, That the Great Arbiter of all Affairs may translate you to the Fruition of a never-fading Crown of Glory in his Presence, are, always & shall be, the Sincere and Constant Prayers of,

Most Gracious Sovereign, Yo^r Majesties most Loyal

and Most Obedient Subjects--

Boston in New England
July 20, 1727

Timothy Cutler
Samuel Myles
James Honyman
James McSparran
George Pigot
Samuel Johnson

May it please Your Lordship

Observing the Loyal Temper of the Three Kingdoms, in the many Addresses of Duty and Affection presented to his Majesty, upon the present Juncture of Affairs, wherein we behold many things carrying a Threatning Aspect on His Majesties Person, Crown, and Government, and therewith on every thing Valuable and Sacred among us; and being particularly Stimulated by the Example of your Lordship and Your Clergy, in and about London; We the Subscribers have thought it our Duty in the best manner we can, and with the utmost Sincerity, to assure His Majesty by the Inclosed Address, of our Equal Regards of Love and Loyalty to Him, which We shall never fail to express, as well in our Private Prayers, as in all the Parts of our Publick Function.

We think our selves constantly Happy, not only under Your Lordships Vigilant Eye and Wise Direction, but also in that great and just Share of Estimation and Respect which our most Gracious Sovereign bears towards You for which reason we are now emboldened to put this Address into Your Lordships hands, hoping it will have Your Lordships Approbation, and the Honour of a Presentment by your Means.

Notwithstanding our Great Distance from his Majestys Throne, we think it our Equal Interest with any of His British Subjects, to endear our selves to His Royal Favour and Protection, as well as to your Lordships Concern and Benevolence; since under God all the hopes of Success in our Functions are derived from these Distant Dependances: and These alone Shelter us from the greatest Effects of an Universal Malice against our Excellent Church expressed in a Continual Series of bad Offices, to our Persons, People, and all our Interests. Persons of unquestionable Zeal against us are promoted in all places. The Governour of Rhode Island is a Zealous Anabaptist and the Lieu^t Governour as Zealous a Quaker. The Laws to bind us to the Support of Dissenting Teachers are yet in force, and executed accordingly; and where any Pretence of Lenity is made it is in such thin Colours as may be easily seen thro and appears no Security to us from those Hardships our churches have along time, and do still complain of and groan under. A Fresh Instance of unjust Treatment is now before our Eyes and at our Hearts, respecting Harvard College in this Neighbourhood: A Seminary of all the Learning and Religious Principles of this Country. The Regulation of which hath, as your Lordship has heretofore Observed a good or bad Aspect in our Church. The Overseers of this College Confirm or Annul all Acts, Orders, Laws, and Elections relating unto it. The persons appointed by Law to be Overseers are the Governour and Deputy for the time being, and all the Magistrates of this Jurisdiction of the Massachusetts, together with the Teaching Elders of the Six adjoining Towns, that is, Cambridge, Watertown, Charlestown Boston, Roxbury and Dorchester, and the president of the College for the time being, And Accordingly each of the Episcopal Ministers of this Town have been notified to appear and sit among the overseers, and the Rev^d M^r Harris hath sate and voted among them: but now when they Observe with envy the Growth of

the Church, they neglect the Citation of these Ministers, and M^r Myles and D^r Cutler having made complaint to them of this Neglect they have voted them to be Persons who never had a Right to sit at the Board of the Overseers. The said M^r Myles and D^r Cutler intend to prefer a Petition to the General Court for a Redress of this Grievance, but we have but a very Slender prospect of the good Consequence and therefore the next Step We presume those Gentlemen will take will be to Apply to the Authority at home. We take the boldness to give Your Lordship an early Intimation of this Affair which we think as important as anything we have ever laid before you and earnestly beg Your Lordship will favour it with Your utmost Interest, whenever it shall be ripe for Consideration.

We would also Observe that Yale College and This, as they are both managed, are in direct Opposition to our Church and Strike an Insupportable Damp on the minds of all our young Students who would be like to favour so excellent a Cause

The Zeal We herein discover is Separate from any Views of particular Interest to our selves, and from any unjust and uncharitable Spirit towards our Dissenting Brethren, whose unsuitable Demeanor towards us we always forgive, and are ready to forget, when the Church is not Insupportably wounded through our sides; whose prosperity we prefer to our Chiefest Joy. From a regard to the Same Interest in General we humbly ask leave to commend to Your Lordships Compassion the present ungospelled Condition of Charles Augustus Ninaagret and the Narraganset Indians of whom He is Sachem, and with many of them highly desirous to be benefited by a Christian Missionary among them. We know this good Motion to be very disgustfull to the prevailing Part of Rhode Island Government and expect the unhandsomest representation of our truly Catholick Inclination in it; but we hope Your Lordship will duly consider who our Antagonists are, and make proper Allowances for all those Suggestions, which are embittered by a Strong and radicated Aversion to our Excellent Church

For these reasons and on these occasions, we promise ourselves Your Lordships Pardon, Countenance, Pity and Blessing, and that Your Lordship will always regard and cherish us as

May it please Your Lordship Your Lordships Most Dutiful Sons and Humble Servants--

Timothy Cutler
Samuel Myles
James Honyman
James McSparran
George Pigot
Samuel Johnson

Boston in New England
July 20, 1727
[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

May it please Your LordP

I have by this Conveyance sent a Letter and a Book of the Connecticut Laws which I Received from Maj^r Buer from New London which he desired me to forward to you I have given Directions to a friend in London that it may be Carefully deliverd to your LordP I beg leave to acquaint you I have the Honor of being Comptroller of his Maj^{ties} Customs for this port and Shall be proud of Obliging your LordP or ffriends here to the best of my ability in anything You Shall please to Command may it please your LordP

Your Lord^{ps} Dutyfull & Most Obedient Servant
Boston New England W^m Lambert
ye 5th Decemb^r: 1725
[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Province of the Massachusetts Bay

To the Right Reverend Father in God Edmund [Gibson] Lord Bishop of London

The Humble Memorial of the Ministers Church Wardens and Vestry-Men of the several Episcopal Churches within y^e Province aforesaid Sheweth

That by the Royal Charter granted to said Province, Liberty of Conscience is granted to all Christians (Papists excepted) and the General Court has power to make Laws not repugnant to the Laws of England, and also to impose and levy proportionable and reasonable assessments Rates and Taxes, on all the Inhabitants according to such acts as shall then be in Force.

That pursuant to such Powers, an Act was made for the orderly Consummating of Marriages, thereby Enabling Justices and Ministers to Solemnize Marriages upon the Terms therein mentioned within their respective Towns and Countys, And by one other Act, entitled an Act to prevent Incestuous Marriages. Justices and Ministers are not to marry out of their County or Towns respectively, and y^e penalty incurred by the Violation of that Law is Fifty pounds, and a disability of ever after Marrying. That by an Act made the 4th of King William and Queen Mary, each Town shall take due Care to be provided wth a Learned Orthodox Minister and y^e whole Town shall be obliged to pay towards his Maintenance each Man his proportion thereof and by an Act made the 12th of K. William Constables and Collectors are enabled to distrain for non payment of the assessments therein mentioned and persons to be committed not having wherewithall to dis-train.

And by one other Act made the 4th of King George, such Assessours have power to raise and assess Mony, for the Building of Meeting Houses to be paid by every Inhabitant respectively, and to be collected as other assessments are.

That by an other Act made the 1st year of King George the 2^d being in further Addition, to an Act in Addition for the better keeping the Lords Day; It is thereby declared y^t the Evening before and after the Lords Day is to be deemed part thereof and all Traveling is forbidden. And by one other Act made in y^e 2^d and 3^d of King George any person absenting himself for the Space of One Month from Publick Worship shall be presented & forfeit 20^{sh}

These Several Acts however wisely calculated for the growth and good Government of the Independent or Congregational assemblies in this province manifestly intrench on the Rights of the Episcopal Churches and the several Acts of Parliament made for the guarding that Holy Religion Your Memorialists (therefore) from the deep Sence of their present Grievances the consequences of these Laws, and that they may not be entaild on their posterity. And for the propagating that most Excellent Church, encircled here with many Enemys, are thus animated to Remonstrate your Lordship, esteeming it a singular favour of Providence, that at this critical Time, they are under a Diocesan whose Pastoral Care so eminently shines & from y^e fervency of whose Praiers, and Interest; and the Clemency & Protection of y^e best of Princes, they now flatter themselves wth suitable redress

Your Lordship we hope will duly consider the several acts mentioned, enabling Justices and Ministers to marry and under the Restrictions therein set forth; which doubtless ought only to reach such Justices and Ministers as are impowered by this Government, and ought not to affect the Episcopal Ministers of the province Who by Your Lordships License, and Laws of England are enabled to marry: and also how that the

provincial Law is attended with dangerous Consequences, Such as that Members of the Church of England in Towns where there is not an Episcopal Minister must be married by Justices, or Dissenting Ministers, who, by them are esteemed but Laymen; that the Violation of this Act is Fifty Pounds, and a Disability of ever after Marrying which is a Notorious Infraction of the Laws of England, and wrenching to themselves the Episcopal power Your Lordship unquestionably, has over y^e Ministers You are pleased to License here.

M^r Commissary Price drew a remonstrance of this Grievance to the Great and General Court, having before it was Exhibited, humbly laid the Same before our Governour, who after some Emendations by Him made gave assurances of His Interest; but the General Court rejected the same, as by the Records herewith presented to Yo^r Lordship will appear

The several Acts, pointed out by Your Memorialists, for the Maintenance of Dissenting Ministers and Building of their Meeting Houses and subjecting all Inhabitants indefinitely, to the Payment of Assessments made for those purposes, and in failure their Goods distrained and Sold, or their Bodies Imprisoned, and this in a distinguishing manner Executed on Members of the Church of England, is a very bold and unjust procedure; and as the same enervates the Laws of England made in Favour of that pure Church, so it greatly discourages the propagation thereof in these parts.

However upon application made to the Great and General Court, they by an Act made in the First year of His present Majesty, seem, in some Degree to ease the Members of that Church, but that Law is tacked with such Qualifications and terms the benefit therefrom was not real and Serviceable, but in Shew and Appearance, & only served to humble the Petitioners, by declaring which were the Established Churches by the Laws of the Province, as appears by the Diction of that Act.

Your Lordships Commissary, piously pursuing the good of the Churches under his Care, upon a Speech made by his Excellency to the General Court, calculated for further relief of the Quakers, laid hold of that Opportunity, to represent the Grievances of these Churches also but without any Success: and for your Lordships Light & Satisfaction therein We have ventured to lay before you the Governours Speech M^r Commissary's Memorials, the Act of the General Court thereon and the Superiour Success the Quakers met with, by an Act made at the same Time So that now the Members of the Church of England notwithstanding All that is done can't be married by their own Ministers, unless they live in the same Town with them; must pay the Taxes and Assessments rais'd for the maintenance of Dissenting Ministers, and erecting of Meeting Houses, unless they live within five Miles of a Church of England and that within this Province: If they Travel on the Lords Day or the Evening before or after, above Five Miles to go to a Church of England are Subject to a Presentment and Fine as by the Act and if they stay at home as several Members are so truly Scrupulous that in Conscience they can't go to Meeting: Such are also presented and fined on the Law 252 and Yet Quakers are exempted from these Penalties

Our Good Lord These Grievances cry aloud for redress, and however Rigorous the Acts of the Province are they are as rigorously Executed as by proper Certificates of y^e Distresses of some few of our suffering Brethren, herewith presented to your Lordship appears. And nothing can more justly proclaim your

Lordship's unshaken Zeal in Enlarging the very best of the Reformed Churches, than restoring our oppressed Church here, to her undoubted Rights, or the peculiar Care you have over Souls, than in Guarding and Protecting us Our Wives and Children in our Holy and undefiled Religion. So that after our Churches here are long very long blessed with your pastoral Care over them you may in a very advanced age, be translated to the Church Triumphant are the sincere and hearty prayers of

Yo^r Lordships Most dutiful Sons & Servants

Kings Chapel Boston

Rog: Price Minister
 Job Lewis } Church
 Cha Apthorp } Wardens
 John Jekyll
 Fra^r Brinley
 George Cradock
 John Eastwicke
 Jona: Pue
 Samuel Grainger
 John Gibbins
 Estes Hatch
 Tho: Phillips
 W^m Speakman
 William Randle
 Jn^o Checkley
 Rob^t Auchmuty
 Rob^t Skinner
 Benj^a Walker
 James Smith
 Tho^s Greene
 Geo Steuart

Christ Church Boston

Timothy Cutler Minister
 William Patton } Church
 William Price } Wardens
 Robert Harris
 Thom: Cunningham
 Hen^r Laughton
 George Skinner
 Rob^t Jenkins
 William Ridout
 Edw^d Stanbridge

Providence Rehoboth
 & Barrington

Arthur Browne Minister
 Charles Bardine } Church
 Benjⁿ Brown } Wardens
 Joseph Whipple
 Robert Currie
 Luke Thurston
 William Ashton
 daniel brown
 Joseph Brown
 John Whipple
 Obeine Brown
 James Mitchell
 John Birkett
 John Butterworth
 Samuel Carpenter
 John Bowen
 Nathaniel Browne

Bristol

John Usher Minister
 Thomas Lawton } Church
 Natha^{el} Bosworth } Wardens
 Samuel Little
 William Munro
 Jacob Howland
 Richard Pearse
 Aaron Bourne
 Richard Munday
 George Munro
 Nath^l Lindell

Marble Head

Geo Pigott Minister
 absent in England
 J Oulton } Church
 Sam^t Banister } Wardens
 James Calley
 Abr^m Howard
 Charles Weadon
 David Le Gullais
 Latimer Waters
 Jo^s Majory
 David furness
 Mathieu Siuret
 Braintree
 Eben^r Miller Minister
 Geo Cheesman - } Church
 Sam^{ll} Cleverly } Wardens
 Leonard Vassall
 Henry Turner
 John Veazie
 Sam^{ll} Pain

Newbury

Matthias Plant Minister
 Joseph Annis } Church
 Daniel Coffin } Wardens
 Rich^d Brown
 Thomas Smith
 Jos Atkins
 Wilham Courtis
 John Huse
 Vic: Looby
 John Carney
 John Mitchell
 John Magee
 Moses Coker
 Obaday Recheurds
 Tho: Johnson
 George Buttler
 Robert Cole
 Daniel Alin

The Reverend Doct^r Timothy Cutler declares & says, That on or about the fifteenth day of March last past, He with the Rev^d M^r Commissary Price & the Rev^d M^r Thomas Harward waited on his Excellency the Governour at his House, That their Design in waiting upon his

Excellency as afores^d was, their seeing a Proclamation issued out by his s^d Excellency, enjoining a Fast to be kept & observed on y^e twenty fifth day of s^d March, and s^d day being a Festival in the Church of England, that that it might not be thought, their Nonobservance of s^d Day was from any Disrespect to the Governour; That M^r Commissary Price informed his Excellency that the Day He had appointed for a Fast was a Festival of the Church, his Excellency replied to s^d M^r Price, He was intirely ignorant of the Festivals of the Church of England, and had he known s^d Day to have been a Festival, He would have appointed another day, and that He beleived Neither a One of the Gentlemen of the Council knew any more about it than He did; That s^d M^r Commissary Price then replied to his Excellency, That Appointment look^d like a Design to affront the Church, and that He or the Church Ministers of s^d Town ought or should have been consulted in such Cases--

Timothy Cutler

Suffolk ss. Boston Dec^r 23^d 1731.

The Reverend Doct^r Timothy Cutler appearing made Oath to the truth of the above Declaration by him subscribed, the Reverend M^r Commissary Price being notified & present.

Before Samuel Checkley } Just: Pacis
 Habijah Savage } Quorum

The Reverend M^r Thomas Harward declares & says, That He was present at the within Meeting at his Excellency's House in Company with the Rev^d Doct^r Timothy Cutler & M^r Commissary Price, That after his Excellency had treated them with great Civility, and was pleas^d to tell them, that He was intirely ignorant that the Day appointed for the Fast, was a Festival of the Church of England, & that had He known it, He would have appointed another Day; His Excellency further said, That He verily believed Neither a One of the Gentlemen at the Council Board knew any thing more of the Day than He did; to which M^r Commissary Price replied, He beleived it was done to affront the Church & that He ought to have been Consulted in that case & that M^r Price (as the Declarant suppos^d) then to moderate the above Expression as to the affronting the Church, spoke the same Words as Doct^r Cutler has sworn to on the within Side

Tho^s Harward

Suffolk ss. Boston Dec^r 23^d 1731-

The Rev^d M^r Thomas Harward appearing made Oath to the truth of the above Declaration by him subscribed, the Rev^d M^r Commissary Price being notified & present

Before Samuel Checkley } Just: Pacis
 Habijah Savage } Quorum

[To Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Fairfield in New England April 10th 1732
 My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

I take this Opportunity by M^r John Beach who now waits upon your Lordship for Holy Orders to lay before you the Circumstances of my own Parish as well as those of this Colony in General. Your Lordship will See by my Letter to the Hon^{ble} Society of the Same Date with this, that We have Some Additions to our Church, and those too Such as will be an Honour to their Profession; But many more in all Probability would fall in^t with us, if in Some matters confessedly circumstantial they might be a little indulged; With

Relation to the Town of Fairfield in particular; Their present Circumstances are so confused that generally they declare themselves Ready to joyn with the Church of England excepting only in the Instances of Submitting to the Sign of the Cross and Baptism and of having Sponsors for their Children, other than the natural Parents.

In these and a very few other Instances of like Nature consists the chief Aversion that People generally have to the Church of England in this Colony, and perhaps in all the other Colonies about us; And altho' I could heartily wish that People would as Readily comply here with so wise an Establishment, as they do in England; Yet if they might be indulg'd in those things to which it is very difficult to persuade them I might Employ much more of my Time in exhorting them to what would perhaps be more Beneficial to Them, and to me much more agreeable.

M^r Beach will be able to give your Lordship a more particular account of the Present State of this Colony; for which Reason I forbear to trouble your Lordship further. I only therefore beg Pardon for this freedom and Intreat your Lordships Prayers and Blessing

I am with the utmost Respect and Veneration My Lord Your Lordships most dutiful Son & humble Serv^t

Henry Caner

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

The Bearer of this is M^r John Beach late Independent Teacher at Newtown in the Colony of Connecticut, who appears to all Indifferent Persons here to have come upon the best motives into the Bosom of our Excellent Church: and now is going to wait upon your Lordship with the Desires of Himself, many of His People & Neighbours, and indeed of the whole Church in New England, that He may receive orders and Power for the Spiritual Service of the People He has left; not excluding the many Ungospelized Native Indians thereabouts, for whose Salvation He desires to labour.

I was Teacher for many years in the Town where He was born and brought up, and afterwards was removed to the College of Newhaven, in both which Places I was witness to His sober and Virtuous Life, close application to His Studies, and Laudable Proficiency in them: and since I have been separated from His Conversation, I have frequently heard His name mentiond with honour and respect as to those Qualifications I have now recited to your Lordship and am well assured of the due allegiance He bears to His present Majesty, and His attachment to the Succession in the House of Hanover, and that I know of none who bear a Cleaner and more unblemish'd Character. As to His Acquirements in Humane and Divine Learning, your Lordship is an Excellent Judge, and, tho' I strongly presume He will recommend Himself to your Lordship upon those heads, yet I humbly beg leave to adde, He would have appear'd with greater advantage before you, had not a Course of too severe Studies formerly impair'd His Health, so as he has been obliged to remit them for a considerable time: but of late His Constitution has been much mended, and we hope that by the Blessing of God, and the Countenance of your Lordship and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, He will return to us in a Capacity to do much Service to Religion and the Church here. I know the Place where He desires to spend His Life and Labours, and think it at a due distance from the Mission of Stratford & Fairfield, so that the Missionaries would not interfere with, but be great Assistants to one another.

I thank God who preserves my Parish in Peace and good Order, and free from those Publick Dissentions that do now so much embarras this Country. I am always ambitious to pay the regards due to your Lordship's Character and Equal Merits, and beg your Lordship's Blessing on

Your most obedient Son and most humble Servant
Timothy Cutler

Boston New England April 28. 1732.

My good Lord of London.

I receivd y^r Lordship's Favour dated Sept y^e 29th past wth much satisfaction. I shu'd have been more highly pleas'd if y^r Lordships great Hurry of Business wou'd have permitted you to have been a little more Particular in some Things. I am very much surprisd we do not hear from M^r Pigot, What He intends to do; Whither to return to his Cure, & ffamily; or Whith^r y^e Prospect of a Peerage, & y^e Pleasant Old England air He chooses as more Agreeable. For my own Part I cannot understand what Ministers can Mean by leaving their Cures upon every Chimarical Pretence. He gave us to understand, when he was embarking for Old England in y^e Fall, y^t He was going Home to be made a Lord, & I have heard since, He had y^e vanity to believe so, till they satisfied Him of y^e Interposition of near half a Doz' Heirs. I humbly request y^r Lordship to send y^e Gentleman to his Place, or some other Person in his Room, otherwise y^t Church must go unsupply'd, for I am not able any more to go thro y^e Fatigue of such a Winter, w^{ch} has broke my Constitution much; for We have not had such a winter, for Duration & severity, in y^e Memory of any Man. My Lord, y^e Bearer of this, is one M^r Beach, who has lived some Time a Dissenting Minister in Connecticut. I know Nothing of y^e Gentleman but by Doctor Cutler, who is his Acquaintance, as well as M^r Johnson M^r Whitmore, & M^r Caner. They give Him a good Character, as a sober Industrious Man; a Man Orthodox in his Principles, & Religious in his Conversation. He intends, I presume, to apply to y^r Lordship for Holy Orders, And if y^r Lordship shall think Him meet, & worthy of y^t Vocation, to beg y^r Goodness to Admitt Him. W^{ch} is all at present from y^r Lordships, most obedient, & Devoted humble Servant,

Tho Harward

Boston May 8th 1732.

[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

I presume to wait on you with this, in Company and Behalf of Two young Persons, M^r Pierson and M^r Browne, desirous of Ordination and a Mission to the Service of our most Excellent Church in these parts; to whose Interest they appear sincerely and strongly attached, and likely by their future Conduct to give Your Lordship intire Satisfaction.

It is needless, my Lord, for Me to say much after the ample Recommendations they have received from their nearest Neighbours: But I presume to say this, That by some personal Acquaintance with M^r Browne, and by collateral Accounts of them both, I am well assured, They have maintain'd unsullied Characters in points of Morals, of Prudence, and of due Affection to the Government of his present Majesty and the Succession in that Family, and have stood as fair as any of the Dissenters whom they have left (Relations as well as others) for what Notice may be gain'd in this Country. And as to any of the Places They may have

an Eye to, I presume Them worthy of Countenance, and from whence a comfortable Harvest may be expected by Divine Blessing on these mens Labours.

The last September I returned my humble Thanks to Your Lordship for your Remembrance of, and Interest for me with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, derived entirely from your Tenderness and Compassion. I hope that Letter has not miscarried. Lest it should, I cannot help on this occasion the repeating my grateful Sense of that undeserved Favor, and my further Resolution not only to pray for your Lordship, but to animate my slender Abilities to my Duty by Your Lordship's Example, and (as I humbly desire also) assisted by Your Blessing. I am

My Lord Your most thankful dutiful Son and Servant
Timothy Cutler
Boston N. Eng. May 1. 1733

Boston May y^e 6. 1733

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

The bearer M^r Punderson is well recommended by those who have known his Life and Conversation, and the design he goes upon is represented as very advantageous to the Church. I am at too great a distance to be acquainted with the particulars my self but by the best information there appears to me no Objection to his favorable reception and encouragement from your Lordship and the Society. I hope in a short time to wait on your Lordship in England having given Notice to the Congregation of my Intention.

I am My Lord Your Lordships Most Dutiful Son and Obedient Servant

Rog: Price

May it please y^r Lordship

The Rev^d Doct^r Cuttler came to Me wth two oth^r Gentlemen, viz, M^r Brown, & M^r Pierson, & gave Me to understand y^t they were designd for London by y^e first ship, & y^t their Intention was to enter into Holy Orders, (provided y^r Ldship shu'd think them qualified for y^t sacred Office. I askd Him, if He knew them, & wheth^r He had receivd any Recommend[ations] from Connecticut. He told Me M^r Johnson had wrote in their Favour, & He had Reason to believe they were convinced of their former Errors, & now entirely in y^e Interest of y^e Church of England, & desired I woud write to y^r Lordship in their Favour. I told Him I must depend wholly upon his Word, & therefore could say no more than what He was pleasd to tell Me, y^t they were well recommended by some Gentlemen in y^t Province &c: All y^t I can do in this particular, will be to submit to y^r Ldships great Prudence, who I Know will Act wth much Candour in y^e Affair; And if y^r Ldship finds them well qualified for so great a Charge, I make no Doubt at all but they will have y^r Ldships Approbation.

D^r Cuttler, M^r Commissary, & my self now have y^e Pleasure of a good Understanding wth Each Oth^r, & as I have long endeavourd to bring it on, So I shall endeavour it may continue if my spouse comes Over (as I expect Her in y^e first ship, w^{ch} I believe will be Capt Shepherds, I shall not return to England so soon as I mention'd in my last Letter to y^r Ldship. I shud be proud of an Answer to it.

I am my Good Lord, wth y^e utmost Deference & Esteem, y^r Ldships most Obedient, & devoted humble serv^t,
Tho: Harward

Boston May 28th, 1733.

[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Stratford in N. England
Mar. 29. 1734

May it please Y^r Lordship,

Since my last Letter to your Lordship, two of the Gentlemen I then mentioned, have declared their Conformity to the Church, (the other having not yet so sufficiently ripened his Thoughts as to come to such a Conclusion.)-- Those who have appeared are M^r Arnold & M^r Punderson the bearer hereof.

As to M^r Arnold, he has met with great Opposition from those about him, who have used so many Arts & Endeavours among his People, that there are not so many of them that have appeared to joyn with him in Conforming to the Church as he expected. He hopes, however, that they will, in the Compass of half a year, return to what appeared to be their former Resolution; & in the mean time he will endeavour, in a private Capacity to do all the good he can among them, & still desires, with me, to be informed, if, by the Fall of the year there should appear a Competent Number in New-Haven, West haven & Milford, (which are all within the Compass of about 8 or 10 miles) to subscribe towards his Support, as it is probable there will, Whither the Society would be disposed to encourage his coming over with a View at being taken upon the Mission for those places, where there are already a considerable number to whom I frequently preach? Or if they fail, whither there might not be provided for him a Mission at Norwalk & Ridgfeild, which are two places near to one another, about 20 miles to the Westward of me, where we have been all of us frequently preaching to a Considerable number of people, who are about building a Church?

As to this M^r Punderson, whom we have recommended to the honourable Society, as very well qualified for their Service, he has so good hopes of his people, that he is earnestly Solicitous of being sent back to them in holy Orders as soon as possible; for the Condition of things with them is such that he could not wait till we could hear from the Honourable Society: on which account he is necessitated to apply to your Lordship for holy Orders to return to them again with all possible Speed, even tho' it should not be in the Society's power to provide a Salary for him, & even tho' he can expect but a very slender Support among his people: He however resigns himself up with an implicit Faith in Providence concerned for nothing but to do his Duty & to do good.-- I humbly hope however, that so disinterested & Self-denying a Disposition will, if possible meet with some Encouragement from the Society, tho' it be but small.

M^r Punderson will wait on your Lordship's Commissary, who, I doubt not, will recommend him to your Lordship, & I humbly hope you will excuse our beginning here in these parts, in Recommending him; the distance of 200 miles rendering it very difficult for us here to have M^r Commissary's Direction, especially with respect to such as go from this Colony who are strangers to him.

Your Lordship is sensible of the dayly growing necessity of Resident Bishops in America: there are several other Ministers & Parishes in view that will need to be provided for: Would to God it were possible we might have One at least, to preside over us. In the mean time I beg, my Lord, you will forgive the frequency of my thus Troubling your Lordship to which the frequency of such Occasions necessitates me.-- I humbly beg your Lordship's prayers & blessing, & remain My Lord, Y^r Lordships most dutiful & most obedient Son & humble Servant

[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Sa. Johnson

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

M^c Ebenezer Punderson being recommended to your Lordship's Countenance and Blessing by many of my Reverend Brethren in New England I humbly beg Liberty to concur with them on so happy an Occasion.

In so doing I support myself not only by the Veracity and Discretion of those worthy Persons, but also by the universal Testimony given to his merits and good Behavior, his Adversaries not excepted. And with all possible Submission, I adde, That Groton bespeaks your Lordship's Compassions, not only as retaining a strong Veneration and Respect towards their late Teacher, but situated, on the one hand at a convenient distance from the Church of New London, from which it is also parted by a very wide River, at many seasons very troublesom to pass; and on the other hand, at a great distance from any Church of England, either settled, or like to be so, and lying towards that Part of the Narragansetts in Rhode Island Govern^{mt} where there is but little of the Face of Religion, and it is crumbled into so many sects as to be almost invisible.

If it pleases God, that M^c Punderson returns with that Favor from your Lordship and the Society that we all desire, I hope He will not long after be followed by another Dissenting Teacher, and a very deserving Person one M^c Jonathan Arnold, now dwelling in New haven, not far from Yale College, whom I shall presume to accompany with another Letter.

Tho' by sundry Deaths and Disasters my Church has not much grown of Late, yet I think, My Lord, in the whole it has not diminished, and I have much reason to rejoyce in the Goodness of God for our persevering Peace and good Agreement; and with a particular Satisfaction I adde to your Lordship That our Monthly Communion is attended by Persons, some 10, 17, 30 miles off: but the Growth of Heresy and Infidelity among us by wicked Books imported and cherished among us is too great not to be much lamented by all serious and considering Persons. I beg your Lordship's Prayers for a Divine Conduct of me in this and my whole Ministry, and hope God yet designs you as a lasting and much valued Blessing to the Church in your present or an higher Station.

I am my very good Lord Your most obliged and most obedient Son and Servant

Timothy Cutler

Boston New England May 6. 1734.

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Tho' I have been till now a Stranger to the person of M^c Arnold, who will present this to Your Lordship, Yet not to His Character which I understand to be universally Good, and Given, and Owned as such, by those, whose Communion He has upon principle forsaken, to Embrace Ours. I have reason to hope that his Capacities, for the Service He offers Himself Unto, will easily recommend Him to Your Lordships Favour, and all due Encouragement for a Mission, and in that very place He has the best prospect of Success in one. I Bless God My Church is in a very flourishing Condition, and should be Glad if Your Lordship and the Honourable Society would Yet consider of the Length and Success of my Services, and the just Account the Bishop of Cloyne was pleased to Give of me and my Circumstances, that some small addition may be made to my Salary, I am with the most profound Esteem

My Lord Your Lordships most Obedient and most humble Servant

James Honyman

Newport on Rhode Island Octobr 29th 1735

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

I presume to wait on you with this Letter in the Company and Behalf of M^c Jonathan Arnold late Teacher of a Congregation in New haven four miles distant from Yale College. Conviction has bro't him into our Church, and in a very inoffensive manner. For about 15 years that I have known him, his Character has been every way desirable, nor are the Dissenters whom he has left able to asperse him, and he now brings the Desire of several of his late Congregation and of the Vicinity, with those of y^e Neighbouring Clergy and others, that your Lordship would Consecrate Him and the Society give him a Mission for that Place. And, My Lord, I do concur with them in an humble Presentation of Him for that Purpose: firmly believing him well calculated for it, from his known Attachment to y^e present Government, his Vertue, Prudence and good Abilities; and well assured that New haven is a place conveniently situated for so great a Blessing.

My Lord, My Church is in a State of Peace, & increases with Hearers and Communicants and I should be much happier than I am were not our Country mony so much sunk in its value. I hope God will long preserve your Lordship as a Blessing to the Church, and that you will bestow your Blessing on, My Lord

your most obedient Son and Serv^t
Timothy Cutler

My Lord,

I beg leave to adde a Line in behalf of M^c Caner That He has behaved himself very prudently, soberly, industriously and acceptably in his Post
Boston N. Eng.
Oct. 31. 1735

Boston Nov: 14 1735

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

The Character I have receivd of M^c Arnold and the piety of his intention oblige me to recommend him to your Lordships Favour, as well deserving encouragement. I am not personally much acquainted with the Gentleman, and can therefore say but little upon my own knowledge, but do verily believe from common report that all that is said of him, by the Neighbouring Ministers is true. I am not so well satisfied of the Necessity of a Mission in the place he applies for, if the merits of the Petitioners are to be judg'd of by the proportion of their own Contributions, and the Seniority of application, several other places would be intitled to a prior regard; one of which comes in a more particular manner recommended to your Lordship and the Hon^{ble} Society.

I am My Lord Your Lordships Dutiful Son and most Obedient Servant

Rog Price

Fairfield in Connecticut New England
Nov^r 22^d 1735

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

I take this Opportunity by the Rev^d M^c Arnold, (the Circumstances of whose Parish determine Him for England) to acquaint your Lordship that my Parish is in a pretty Good State: That besides Fairfield I have attended the Care of Norwalk a place about 12 Miles from me, and where there are now forty Families professing the Ch^h of England. This Increase makes them long very much for a Missionary. I have therefore wrote to the Venerable Society in their behalf praying Some Consideration of So promising a Church. I have a Broth^r Richard Caner, who has had a liberal

Education, & is preparing for Holy Orders, Who is industrious in teaching Thirty poor Children for a very Scanty Allowance, & who assists me in Chatechizing, & performing Such other Offices as in a Lay Capacity he is qualified for, And indeed without his Assistance I should be much less able to Serve the Necessities of So large a parish than at present I am. I have applyd to the Hon^{ble} Society by this Opportunity praying their Consid[er]ation of this Case, either allowing Him Some further Support for his Services, or enabling me to Support Him, or doing what may appear to them most meet in the Affair.

I humbly beg your L^dships Interest & Influence with leave to Subscribe my Self my Lord your Lordships most Dutiful & Obedient Humble Servant

Henry Caner

May it please Your Lordship

After the great labour and expense our Rev^d Brother M^r McSparran has gone thro to recover an important interest of his Church, very unjustly (as we think) detain'd from him, a disinterested and unwearyed Zeal disposing him to wait on your Lordship in behalf of it, we cannot but follow him with our best wishes, and do with all humility and earnestness recommend Him to your Countenance and Assistance. His Conduct in this affair, and every part of his Mission, has rendered him highly worthy, not only of our personal, but the Universal Esteem of our Excellent, tho depressed Church in those parts. the true State of which we Judge him perfectly qualified to lay before Your Lordship, the repeated Testimonies of Your Lordship's Paternal Affection to us, have encouraged and invited to this address, we Shall always remain

Your Lordships most thankful dutiful Sons, & Servants

Rog Price
Timothy Cutler
Matt Plant
George Pigot
John Usher

Eben^r Miller
Henry Caner
Arthur Browne
Addington Davenport
Jon^a Arnold

Marble Head in New England

June 23^d 1736

[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Fairfield in N England Sept^r 13th 1736

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

I beg leave to acquaint your Lordship that I am once more arriv'd in Safety to my Parish of Fairfield my Health (thro' Gods Goodness) much improv'd, So that I have hopes of being once more useful to this People. I have presum'd to lay before the Hon^{ble} Society an Account of the present Disposition of the Dissenters here, who are extremely busy in examining and prying into the Conduct of the Missionaries, in Order to accuse Them to the Hon^{ble} Society; Your Lordship will easily perceive, that it cant be Religion which puts Them upon Such unfair Methods of misinterpreting our Conduct: When I had the Honour personally to mention these Things to your Lordship the last Winter, I observ'd that those Gentlemen Who complain of our Conduct, are at least fifty Miles from any Mission, So that the Things they charge us with are taken up upon hearsay: and now they are call'd upon to make good their Charge, are obliged to write to their Brethren, to See if they can find Instances to prove it.

If any Complaints Should be laid before your Lordship that carry the least air of probability, We beg leave to be notified that We may have Opportunity to

make a proper Defense, Tis Difficult to Conduct So as to be open to no Misconstruction.

I am my Lord with the utmost Veneration your Lordships most Dutiful Son and Humble Servant

Henry Caner

Fairfield in Connecticut N: England
Sept^r 13th 1736

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

I had finisht the enclosed when I was desired to give a Letter of Recommendation to the Bearer hereof M^r John Cutler, Son of the Rev^d D^r Cutler of Boston, which I very readily comply with and do now accordingly heartily joyn with my Brethren in Recommending this Gentleman to your Lordships kind Notice

His Design is if your Lordship think him fit, to Receive holy Orders. I have always known Him from a Child, and he has ever approv'd himself a Studious and Virtuous person; and I Sincerely think him well attach'd to the present happy Establishment in Church and State. I wish he could be Return'd to us again, but as I know of no vacant Mission at present, I presume the Freinds of his good Father will make Some Provision for him at Home, till Something offers abroad.

I flatter my Self your Lordship if necessity should so require would Countenance his good Fathers past Services, by advising to Some Provision for his Son.

I beg pardon my Lord for this Freedom and take no further Liberty than to add that I am with the utmost Veneration My Lord your Lordships most obedient Son & Humble Servant

Henry Caner

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

I hope I may not incur Your Lordship's displeasure in laying before you the Ill-natur'd useage The Church of England has from the Dissenters in these Parts: The Civil Government have granted to West-Haven, (where I dwell) Two hundred Pound to Settle a Dissenting Teacher in Opposition to The Church, & 40^{lb} Per Annum to Support him which is to be paid out of the Common Treasury of the Colony, in Some other Towns they have agreed to maintain their Teachers out of their Town Treasurys, which are Raised by Taxing The Members of The Church of England as well as the Dissenters: Thus My Lord we are Universally taxed thro The Colony to Support a Separate and Opposite Interest. The Civil Power being entirely in y^e hands of Dissenters, we are Ruled with very little justice or mercy: notwithstanding the Oppressions the Church of England labours under here, it never was in so growing a State as at this day:

As I am ordered upon an Itinerant Mission my work is peculiarly chargeable & difficult, but with all peculiarly pleasant from the fair prospect of Success:

I Shall not be wanting to do to y^e utmost that I am able to serve the interest of Religion in the faithful discharge of the Office committed to me by your Lordship, in order to which I beg your Lordships blessing, and leave to Subscribe my Self

My Lord Your Lordships Most Obliged and Most Dutiful Humble Servant

Jonathan Arnold:

West Haven Sept 27 1736

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Having heretofore concurred with many others in

presenting the Rev^d M^r Arnold to your Lordship's Favour and Consideration, and to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, for Their Support; I not only heartily rejoyce that I have so done, and with so good Acceptance from your Lordship and that worthy Body, but also joyn with sundry of my Rev^d Brethren in an humble Request for the Enlargement of his Salary, the only thing wanting, by the Assistance of God, to make Him a great Blessing in the Place and Business wherein He is.

I have reason to think none acquainted with Him, to be wanting in an high Esteem of his Vertue and Labors, and a true Concern for his further Countenance and Assistance in them. I ask leave of your Lordship to adde, That the Place where He liveth is very populous and of great Resort, That His Family is large and encreasing, His Cure of a large Circuit, obliging Him to much Travail and Lodging abroad, and His Parishioners, (as well as other Churchmen) none of those who can here look for Honours and Worldly Countenance, and so very little able to compensate his faithful Labours; so that His Personal Estate hath mostly supported Him under the Public Services He is called to, and thro his many avocations wants his excellent Oeconomy, and thereby sensibly suffers and decays: And, at this time, when so many malignant Efforts are made against the Church of England, sundry of which particularly affect Him, should his Difficulties dispirit Him, and leave Him to sink under the Insults of our Adversaries, it would be a general wound to the Church here. I cannot therefore now forget our wonted Refuge to your Lordship's Commiserations, to which, I, with the rest of your Clergy, am greatly obliged.

My Lord, The Difficulties of the Church in those parts are many and very pressing; and, with great Submission, I would hope it might have an happy Effect, were M^r Arnold personally present to lay them before your Lordship and the Society: and I do not know but our Adversaries in this Province are opening new Scenes of Trouble to us that might want his Representations.

But I ask your Lordship's Pardon if I go too far. I have nothing particularly to trouble you with respecting my own Parish I thank God; I serve them with a pretty deal of Quietness. As I am highly thankful for your Lordship's Favors in time past, I would take care never to ill deserve them for the time to come.

We all acknowlege the great Goodness of God to His Church that continues your Lordship as a Pastor of it, and ever wait on the same Almighty Being for the Lengthening out of that Blessing. I beg leave to commend to your Lordship's Prayers and Benediction, my Self, my Son at Bocking, and my other Son of Liberal Education (whom many think favourably of) now on a Voyage to the Mediterranean, to recover Him from great Languishments, if God pleases: and while I live, shall be, as I now am, with all possible Gratitude and Esteem

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Son and Servant

Timothy Cutler

Boston New England
Dec. 20. 1738

At a Meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts, 18th December 1741.

Agreed that M^r Richard Caner be Recommended to the Lord Bishop of London for Holy Orders in case he shall be found duly Qualified for the Same, and when

Ordained y^t he be Appointed Assistant Minister to his Brother in the Churches of Norwalk, Ridgefield & Stanford, with a Salary of 20[£] a Year.

Philip Bearcroft Secretary

Stratford in New England
July 24. 1745

May it please your Lordship,

The Reverend D^r Asty hath informed me in a Letter dated Feb^ry 28. 1743/4, which I received not till about a month agoe, that he was much obliged to your Lordship for your Assistance, in his procuring the unexpected & undeserved Honour of a Doctor's Degree for me of the University of Oxford. For this great Favour of your Lordship to me unknown & obscure in this remote Corner of the Earth, I must think it my bounden Duty, tho' thus late, to make my most grateful Acknowledgments, which I most humbly beg leave to do: & at the same time to assure your Lordship, that as I cannot pretend to have merited so high a Favour, I shall ever consider it as a most engaging Motive to lay out the remainder of my Life with the greater Diligence in doing all the good I am able, for promoting the Interest of true Religion & the Enlargement of the best of Churches in this my native Country.-- And as this is all the Retaliation I am able to make for this so great a Favour, so I hope, in some measure, hereby to answer the Ends of your Lordship in favouring me with your Interest, & of that Illustrious Body in the Bestowment of it.

And now that I have this the Hon^r to have Occasion of paying my Duty to your Lordship, I humbly beg you will forgive me if I add a few Lines further to express my Thanks to your Lordship for your admirable Sermon before the Society, wherein you have gone to the Bottom of the Subject, & in the most excellent & effectual manner pleaded the Cause of that noble & most important Charity.-- You have said every thing that can be imagined relating to it: & I am particularly obliged to your Lordship for that paragraph in the 32^d & 33^d pages, relating to the Advantage of employing Missionaries that are Natives of these Colonies, & the great necessity of Bishops to reside among us.

As to the former, Here are two Colleges, one of which is at New Haven, about 14 Miles from me, from whence 17 have already gone for Orders, & there is a prospect of more from time to time: Four are now preparing themselves; & I hope the Society will, e'er long, give them leave to go home in order that they may be employed. But if we had a Bishop to ordain them without such a tedious expensive & dangerous Voyage, there would be many more that would gladly take Orders, & the Church would be double to what it now is, within 7 or 10 years time.-- It is indeed a most melancholly Consideration that so remote & so large a Body of the Christian Church should be destitute of a B^p.-- I pray God it may be in your Lordship's power to be instrumental in procuring for us so great a Blessing.--

The Zeal & Affection your Lordship expresses for these remote Colonies, will, I hope, dispose you to pardon my presumption in writing thus particularly, and I should be most humbly thankful for your Lordship's Leave to recommend to your kind notice any thing that may concern the Interest of Religion in these parts of the World.-- I humbly beg your Lordship's prayers & Blessing, & remain may it please y^r Lordship, your Lordship's most obliged most obedient & dutiful Son & humble Servant
[Thos. Secker, Bp. of Oxford]

Samuel Johnson

Stratford in New England
Novemb^r y^e 25 1745

May it please y^r Lordship

By M^r Lamson (who, I thank God, is safe returned & very acceptable in his Mission) I received your Lordship's most obliging Letter of July y^e 3^d for which I return you my humblest Thanks; & scarcely know how to express the Satisfaction I received from the unexpected Intelligence you so kindly condescended to favour me with.-- And I earnestly pray God Almighty to succeed your fresh Attempts to procure for us so great a Blessing as Bishops in these plantations, where there are so many thousands of Souls, scattered over such vast Tracts of the Earth, & such a Number of the Clergy who extremely need the Inspection & Government of that Sacred Order; & where, if we had a truly pious, wise, meek & Benevolent Bishop, one or more, to visit, confirm, ordain & preside over us, I doubt not but some thousands more, would, in a little time, come over from their many wild Errors to the Acknowledgment of the Truth as it is in Jesus. Especially at this Juncture, when peoples Heads have been, of late, so turned with Enthusiasm & Madness, more or less, in all parts of these English Dominions, which has universally thrown those of the Separation into endless Divisions & Confusions, while the Church has every where stood her Ground & made her Advantage of them.-- This would be an effectual antidote to the poison spread over all these parts, by the indefatigable preaching of that empty, vain young Creature, who has, once & again been travelling through all these Countries, & every where left them involved in such Contentions & Factions as make them so weary of their present Situation, that, upon such a happy Occasion I am persuaded multitudes would be ready to fly into the Bosom of the Church, as the Dove into the Ark.

I was scarce ever more surprised at any thing my Lord, than that there should ever have been imagined such an Objection against this proposal, as that which your Lordship mentions to have stood in the Way of it.-- France & Spain are doubtless as much concerned as England can be, to secure the Dependence of their Plantations; & they are so far from thinking Bishops a Damage, that they make an Advantage of them to that purpose; even the little Colony of Canada has a Bp, which is not half so big as one of our Colonies.-- The Church, I believe, is the bigger part of the King's Dominions in America & if it were possible for any thing to create in us a Disaffection to the Government at home, (as I hope nothing ever will,) so nothing could be so great a Temptation to it, as denying us a regular Episcopal Constitution.-- It has always been Fact & is obvious in the nature of the thing, that antiepiscopal are, of course, antimonarchical principles; So that the Danger of our affecting Independency can never come from a regular Episcopacy, but would naturally flow from the want of it;--from that turbulent, outrageous Spirit which Enthusiasm is apt to inspire men with.-- To me, therefore my Lord, there is nothing appears more evident than that a regular Episcopal Settlement, would be so far from promoting a Spirit of Independency, that it would be the most effectual means that could be devised to secure our Dependence on our Mother Country:--especially at this Juncture, when we are so puff'd up with our late Success at Cape Beton, that our Enthusiasts are almost apt to think themselves Omnipotent.-- It will not, indeed, be denied that Enthusiasm had a considerable hand in that daring Enterprize; but it is equally certain that it could have effected nothing without the wise Conduct & Management of those two good Gentlemen

of the Church, Governour Shirley & Admiral Warren besides many others of lesser note.--

I mention this, My Lord, because I am aware our Adversaries will be apt to plead their great Merit in that Exploit, as an Argument against any proposal of sending Bps hither: But considering their Temper & Spirit, I should rather think it a great Reason for it, as a necessary means to check their Impetuosity, & to prevent what I know will otherwise be the Effect of their present Elevation which prompts them to think they, having so much Merit, may persecute & tyrannize over the Church here as much as they please, & none will say to them why do ye so? Instances of which, we have lately felt in this Colony, & more of them we expect every day.-- Besides; If we have deserved well of our Mother Country, as this is most owing to the part which the Church hath acted, methinks it may fairly be alledged as an Argument for our being provided with a regular Ecclesiastical Constitution,--and as this great Exploit has, perhaps given Gentlemen at home to look upon us as being much more considerable than they had done before, I hope it will be an Inducement to the Court to favour us with what the best part of us so much set our Hearts upon.--

I humbly beg your Lordship's pardon for the Length of my Letter, & to impute it to my earnest Desire, if I could, to suggest something from hence, that may be of some little use to your Lordship in pleading our Cause on this Occasion.-- I pray God to preserve your Lordship's Life & Health that you may Live to see the happy Success of your Labours in so good a Cause, & abundantly to reward them at length in a better World!

I remain May it please your Lordship, Your Lordship's most dutiful & most obedient Son & humble Servant

Samuel Johnson

[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

St James's Westminster
March 8. 1745/6

Sir

I thank you for the Favour of your obliging Letter. If I contributed any thing towards obtaining your Degree, it was only by acquainting some Members of the University with your Character. And if I have furthered in any Measure by my Sermon the Designs of the Society, God be thanked. For next to the Support of Religion amongst our selves, our principal Object should be encouraging it in our Colonies. Every thing looks very discouraging here, ecclesiastical & civil, domestick & foreign. God avert from us the Judgments we have deserved; or if he hath determined our Fall, raise you up in our stead; that his Truth may still have some Place of Refuge. We have been greatly blameable, amongst many other things, towards you: particularly, in giving you no Bishops. But I see no prospect of Amendment in that or any thing; except what arises from the Contemplation of His overruling Providence, who brings Light out of Darkness. Being taken up, whilst in Town, with the Care of a Parish which is too much for me, & having no Interest amongst the Great; I can attend the Society but little, & serve it still less; but shall be glad to receive whatever you may please to communicate to me concerning the State of Religion amongst you, which will always have my best Wishes & Prayers. I earnestly pray God to bless you for the sake of it: and am,

with much Regard,

Sir, Your loving brother & humble servant

Tho: Oxford

D^r Johnson

[Thos. Secker, Bp. of Oxford]

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson]

A principal inducement to my Application to your Lord^p for y^e Lecture of this place, was y^e pleasing prospect of a state of independency: Nine Years had I been a slave to the capricious humours of a restless people; And Alas! even here, where I hoped a Haven of Rest, am I likely to be tossed in y^e most boisterous Sea: so truly is the Old Aphorism verified--Incident in Scyllam &c.

From our Rev^d Commissary by their ill treatment, have a few busie men, in a manner extorted a Resignation (for who can live in a perpetual flame?) And chosen M^r Caner late Missionary at Fairfield in Connecticut to succeed him: & as he was bred among them, & they are as partial, as passionately fond of Novelty, he is so much become the object of their Adoration, that they w^d even beg me for a Fool: & in Effect have told me, I must submit to his superiour Powers, & content myself wth Preaching in y^e Morning, that he may gratifie y^e Larger Audience in the Afternoon: & this only for y^e sake of y^e contribution, w^{ch} for the present may be a little encreased, by a few itching ears.

As to my Preaching My Lord, I can say but little, only this. I will aver, my best endeavours have never been wanting, & my doctrine has been always sound, & such as it is has given satisfaction both at Chigwell & Spring Garden Chappel: at Situate & at Salem, at least I never heard it complained of: And as the People here, place all their Religion in Sermons, I have been the more studious to Oblige them, and if usus promptos facit I hope I have rather improv'd yⁿ not.

My Lord I do insist, & have insisted on Preaching in the Afternoon, in Obedience to your Lordships appointment as being "by a certificate under your hand & seal appointed to perform y^e Office of Minister or Afternoon Preacher in the Kings Chappel at Boston." Upon my refusing to recede from y^s appointm^t I was told I sh^d be forced to a Compliance, & that tho your Lordship did appoint the Chaplain, it was in y^m to determine w^t sh^d be his duty, & w^d he shoud Preach, w^{ch} being a seeming contempt of your Lordships express appointment, I therefore refused to Comply, but for Peace Sake fear I must, until your Lordships determination reach us, which I hope will be in favour of your own appointm^t in as much as it will be a precedent in future time.

The Customary duty of the Lecturer here has been, to Read Prayers in the Morning, & Preach in the Afternoon; And on Wednesdays, Frydays, fast, or feast days, he, & the Minister officiate alternately: And no innovations have been made in y^s Order, but once, in respect of D^r Harwood, who by using him self to y^e taking of Opium, had laterally render'd himself almost incapable of business.

May the Almighty prolong your Lordships days, for the Good of Our Church, & Interest of Our Religion; & when it shall please him to Call you hence, full of days, & full of Works, May he reward your pious Labours here, with an Eternity of Happiness hereafter, is & shall be the incessant hearty Prayer of

My Lord Your Most Dutyful Most Obedient and Most Humble Servant

Charles Brockwell

Boston N Eng^d 28 April 1747

Boston in N. England
Dec^r 3^d 1747.

My Lord [Bp. Edmund Gibson],

By a Letter which M^r Brockwell lately received from your Lordship, (a part of which he communicated to me,) I perceive that I have the unhappiness to be under your Lordship's displeasure. If I knew what part of my conduct had given Offence I would most humbly ask your Lordship's Pardon; and for the future endeavour to be more watchful-- But here my Lord it is my great misfortune to be left entirely in the dark-- All that I am able to collect is that some complaint of M^r Brockwell's, has brot' your Lordship's censure upon me, but as that Gentleman refuses to let me see his Letter, I am quite unable to make any defence. From your Lordship's reply I must suppose M^r Brockwell's Letter to referr to a small controversy between Him and the Gentlemen of Kings Chapel relating to their desire that he would preach in the forenoon on Sundays: but how I should be brot' into that controversy I am quite at a loss, (to whom it is perfectly indifferent what part of the day my duty falls) unless the most prudent endeavours to put a Stop to that controversy may be esteemed a Fault. I confess when I perceived a thing of so small consequence like to become the occasion of alienating the affections of the People from M^r Brockwell and by that means of rendring his labours less useful, I thot' it my duty to endeavour by the most prudent and tender applications both to him and them, to prevent so ill an effect. Both sides were preparing to make warm representations according to their different Apprehensions, and your Lordship would long before now have had the trouble of this affair, if I had not dissuaded them from such a design-- I thot' my applications had been successful and that perfect peace and harmony had been restored among us; till the arrival of your Lordships Letter convinc'd me that M^r Brockwell on his side had not dropt the controversy-- I am sorry my Lord to say I fear it will now too warmly revive; and what gives me greater uneasiness is that your Lordship has precluded me from using any good offices towards healing such a breach. I dare not now, tho' in never no innocent a manner, or with ever so good a purpose open my mouth in relation to this Affair, because I am resolved at any rate to convince your Lordship of my perfect Obedience to your Lordships commands, and how much they are mistaken in my true character, who shall represent me otherwise than as endeavouring by the most prudent measures to preserve peace with all mankind. Tho' after all I cannot assure my self that even my present silence shall not be misconstru'd.-- I could I apprehend have represented this Affair to your Lordship in such a Light, that your Lordship might in two Words have put an end to this controversy to the Satisfaction of both sides; for it arose entirely from a misunderstanding between them: but I find I am now rather represented as a Party, and must therefore be silent.

My Lord, I have been twenty Years in the service of the Church, and never in that whole time received a check from any Superior till now-- I have liv'd where contention has prevailed among the Clergy on all sides of me, but never had any other share in their controversy's than that of a Peacemaker, in which office I have frequently been employ'd-- I never once complain'd of any Brother nor till now was never complain'd against.-- I never had the misfortune to have the least controversy with my People, nor during the whole course of my ministry,

has any controversy obtained among my former People-- I have preserv'd the Church's rights in their full extent without the least dispute and transmitted them in like manner to my Successor-- If ever I might pretend to any Talent at all, I flatter'd my self it was that of prudence-- For this character my Lord I appeal to the Clergy in general, and to the Laity in three Provinces; for tho' I had my birth in England I am no Stranger in any part of this Continent from New York to Boston.

Thus my Lord, I can only vindicate my Self in general Terms, till I am inform'd, or can divine what it is whereof I am accus'd.-- When your Lordship shall think proper to command M^r Brockwell to do me that Justice I promise a more particular reply-- In the meantime I beg leave to assure your Lordship that neither this nor any other conduct of M^r Brockwells shall draw any resentment from me, or prevent any good Offices it may be in my power to do him

I am with great Submission My Lord Your Lordships most dutiful and most humble Servant

Henry Caner

Boston Jan^y 11, 1747.

May it please your Lordship

Our present Address to your Lordship is occasioned by your Lordship's Letter of last July to the Rev^d M^r Brockwell which he communicated to us in a Vestry call'd at his desire for that purpose; & which, we can't help saying, not a little surprized us, as we found from some passages in it, that he must have misrepresented both the Rev^d M^r Caner & ourselves to your Lordship--

We wish upon this Occasion we could have obtained from M^r Brockwell a copy of your Lordship's Letter to him, & of his own to your Lordship, which occasioned the writing of it; that we might have been more fully inform'd of the cause of your Lordship's displeasure at us and so happy as to have had it in our power, (as much as might be) to remove it, by vindicating ourselves from the Charge, he has made against us to your Lordship; But since he has thought fit finally to refuse us a copy of either; and only read to us a paragraph out of what he inform'd us, was a copy of his Letter to your Lordship so far as it related to us; and has left us very much in the dark as to the whole of his charge against us, we hope your Lordship will make a proper allowance for the disadvantage, we lye under, in case any part of his Letter to you should remain unanswered: and humbly beg leave to lay before your Lordship a short & full State of the Case between that Gentleman & us in, what we conceive to be, it's just Light.--

As our Church is in a great Measure supported by a free & voluntary Contribution collected every Sunday in the Afternoon; it has been customary for the Gentleman esteem'd the best preacher, & most followed by the People, to preach in that part of the day, as may be easily made to appear: And as this matter was never before disputed by M^r Brockwell's Predecessors, we easily conceived the Incumbent had such a Right to his Pulpit, as to preach either in the forenoon, or afternoon, as should be judged most for the advantage of the Church: And accordingly the Congregation at their anniversary meeting, on Easter monday last, taking into Consideration the Circumstances of the Church, which on many Accounts are very Indifferent and being fully persuaded that M^r Caner's preaching in the Afternoon would be greatly for it's benefit, appointed the Church-Wardens to wait on M^r Brockwell,

& acquaint him with their request, that he would preach in the Forenoon: But before the Church-Wardens had time to wait on him, One of the principal Members of the Congregation, & a particular acquaintance of M^r Brockwell's, meeting him immediately afterwards, inform'd him of the Congregation's desire, and purely, as a friend, (as he informs us) us'd his Endeavours to persuade him to a Compliance.-- What particular discourse might pass between that Gentleman & M^r Brockwell, we can't pretend to say: But the Church-Wardens soon after going to let him know the desire of the Church, were prevented by his telling them, he knew what they came for, & had been previously acquainted therewith by One of the Vestry, who, he said, had used him ill, & to whom he had declared his determination, & would stand to that; and would give no other answer-- Upon this some Gentlemen very desirous of peace, and to prevent all misunderstandings, discoursed with M^r Brockwell on the Affair, who then gave Encouragement to hope that he would gratify the Congregation's desire, and said the best way would be, to leave the Matter to M^r Caner and himself, not doubting but they should make all easy: and at another time he declar'd, that if M^r Caner had mentioned the thing to him he should have very readily come into it-- This my Lord occasioned the Congregation to put the matter upon that Issue, and to desire M^r Caner to talk with M^r Brockwell upon it who, at the request of the Congregation, & upon M^r Brockwell's own proposal, was induced to do it, not having before in the least concerned himself with it-- And thus my Lord we were in hopes that this Matter had been adjusted to M^r Brockwell's own Satisfaction as he soon after constantly preach'd in the Forenoon, without any signs of disgust, or uneasiness, or giving any cause to suspect, that he was at the same time making complaint to your Lordship against us; much less that he was making an injurious representation of M^r Caner's Conduct in the Affair which M^r Caner was brought into intirely through M^r Brockwell's own proposal--

And now my Lord, we beg leave to assure You that if we had in the least apprehended, that our proceedings would have been look'd upon as an infringement on your Lordship's Appointment of the Assistant Minister, we should have made our humble application for your Lordship's Order, & directions in the Matter, instead of making the request, we did, to M^r Brockwell: And as we would industriously avoid every thing that may incur your Lordship's displeasure, & erase all Impressions, that may have been made to our hurt, We humbly address your Lordship for an explicit account of the duty of the Assistant, (as it appears he has been always call'd by several of Bp: Compton's Letters &c in our Custody) 'till very lately; or Afternoon Preacher, or Lecturer that we may conduct ourselves accordingly: Being fully satisfy'd, for the great Opinion we have of your Lordship's Paternal Goodness, that your Lordship will have a most tender regard for our Infant Church planted here in the midst of disaffected Separatists, & not suffer matters of an Indifferent Nature, in the least to obstruct her Welfare & Prosperity--

As to what he would insinuate to your Lordship, in order to represent us as a contentious People, that he liv'd in perfect Harmony with the People of his former Churches at Scituate, & Salem; we shall forbear to trouble your Lordship with any thing that may glance upon his Conduct towards them any farther than to say that the Case is very different from what he would have your Lordship beleive it to be--

As we think that the minutes of the proceedings

in this Affair, enter'd in our books may farther contribute to shew it to your Lordship in it's true colour We have inclosed a Copy of them--

We are With great Respect, Your Lordships
Most Dutiful & Obed^t humble Servants

Eliakim Hutchinson	Edward Tyng	
Job Lewis	James Gordon	} Wardens
Silvester Gardiner	John Box	
Charles Apthorp	Henry Frankland	
James Forbes	Jonathan Pue	
John Gibbins	Geo. Craddock	

[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

Boston Jan^y 29th 1747/8

May it please your Lordship

We think it our Duty to acquaint your Lordship that Time and other Accidents and particularly a late remarkable Storm have so much impair'd Kings Chapel in Boston, that it is become necessary to rebuild it. To which purpose the Congregation have chearfully enter'd upon a Subscription, which at present amounts to Sixteen Thousand Pound New England currency, equal to so many Hundreds Sterling and is daily increasing; but as We have no Expectation of their Ability to compleat the work of themselves, they have thought proper to apply to such Friends; whose Ability and Virtue give Hopes of their encouraging a design of this Nature.-- But as all probable means in our Power will be found little enough to accomplish the good Work; We humbly beg leave to ask your Lordship's Opinion of the Propriety of an Application to his Majesty in favour of a Church, the first in America and who at the publick Charge erected a very handsome pew for his Majesties Governour, A Church which has heretofore tasted of the Royal Bounty, and if we may judge by the Name seems in some measure encouraged to expect it. We are sensible your Lordships Interest & Influence would be the greatest Security of success, if such an Application were thot' practicable and proper, whether that Assistance were ask'd from the Royal Bounty, or by Virtue of an authoritative Breif.

In hopes of being favour'd with your Lordships Direction, and supported by your Interest, We beg leave to assure your Lordship that we are with all Duty and Submission

Your Lordships Most obedient
and most humble Servants

Henry Caner	Minister	Cha Apthorp
James Gordon	} Wardens	James Forbes
John Box		Silv. Gardiner
H. Frankland		Jona: Pue
Edw ^d Tyng		El ^m Hutchinson
George Craddock		James Smith
John Gibbins		

P.S. Enclos'd with this your Lordship will receive Duplicates of our former Letter and Papers
[Bp. Edmund Gibson]

To the Most Reverend Father in God, Thomas [Herring], Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; The humble Address of sundry of the Clergy of the Church of England in the Colonies of New-England & New-York.
May it please your Grace,

Upon the Decease of your Graces most excellent Predecessor, whose Loss we heartily lamented, it was with great Satisfaction & Joy, that we heard of the Advancement of your Grace to the illustrious See of Canterbury & the Presidency of the venerable Society for propagation of the Gospel, as, having been before

informed of your Graces most vigorous Zeal & Activity, in the time of the late unnatural Rebellion, in behalf of the best of Princes, on the Stability of whose Throne, depends the Welfare & prosperity of the best of Churches: On which Account, we were persuaded the like Zeal & Activity would be exerted by your Grace on all proper Occasions, in promoting the Interest of true Religion, not only at home, but also here abroad in these distant Plantations, now fallen under your Graces Inspection.

We do therefore, in all humility, beg leave to lay before your Grace our most hearty Congratulations on this Occasion; & intreat you will graciously permit us to recommend to your Graces patronage our Infant Churches, in these remote parts of the World, where, struggling with many Difficulties, we are labouring to promote the Cause of Truth & Virtue, conformable to the principles & Rules of that excellent Church, at the Head whereof, your Grace is most deservedly placed.-- And we humbly beseech Almighty God to preserve your Graces Life & Health, that you may long continue a great Ornament to that exalted Station, & at length be advanced to a glorious Reward of all your faithful Labours.-- We beg an Interest in your Graces Prayers & Benedictions, & remain,

May it please your Grace, Your Graces most dutiful
& most obedient Sons, & humble Servants,

Alex ^r Malcolm	William Skinner
Matt Graves	Tho: Thompson
Eben ^r Punderson	Samuel Auchmuty
John Beach	Richard Mansfield
Joseph Lamson	Samuel Johnson
Henry Barclay	James Wetmore
Sam ^l Seabury	Peter Stouppe
Rich ^d Charlton	Tho: Standard
Isaac Browne	Tho ^s Colgan

June 1st 1748

[?To Abp. Thos. Herring]

The present State of this Colony with regard to its Policy Government & Laws under the Royal Charter granted by his late Majesty King Charles the 2^d Is this.-- In point of Law, the Acts of Assembly are here Esteem'd of the same Authority as an Act of Parliament at home, nor Is it Imagin'd that they need, or that we are any way holden to procure the Royal Assent to them In order to render them In all Cases In the highest Degree obligatory, nor did I ever hear that they were sent home for the Royal approbation. Nay I Do Believe that an Act of Assembly would be here adjudg'd Superior to & would prevail even against the Kings prerogative. At least this Is fact with regard to the Intestate Law which respects the Descents of Estates real & personal that it Is constantly practised upon & has been lately reenacted & Continues In full force notwithstanding it has been formally repeal'd, Declared null & Void, & order'd never more to be Acted upon, by a Decree of the King In Council-- These Acts of Assembly are Indeed all that can properly be call'd Law In the Colony; since the Statutes of Great Britain are Esteem'd of no manner of Authority unless where the Plantations are Expressly named; nay it seems to be tho't even meritorius to adjudge Contrary to them & that In parrallel Cases, & where the same reasons Clearly obtain here which were the foundation of the Statute. The Common Law of England Is always Supposed to be controul'd by an Act of Assembly; nor, where there Is no Act, Is it allow'd to be Authorotative. Tho' it Is sometimes follow'd, Yet never as absolutely Conclusive, nor as haveing the

true weight of Law. Hence it Is, (the Acts of Assembly, providing but In Comparatively few Cases,) that the Law Is Extreemly Vague & Indeterminate; much Is left to the Arbitrary Determination of the Judges, where partiality prejudice or favour to persons or parties, Is often conspicuous. The Judgments of Courts are Extreemly diverse, opposite, Inconsistant & Contrary. The proceedings for want of attending to the rules at home (& haveing none or but few of our own) are Incertain & Confused. In a Word a Man can seldom know what to Depend on In any Court or In any Cause--

With regard to our Government it Is by much too Popular. The persons In place absolutely depending on the annual Election of the People for their Posts; popularity & a Servile Compliance with all their humours & Schemes however so Extravagant or unreasonable Is the greatest Virtue. Whoever honestly & Steadily adheres to his principles & Schemes If they happen not to hit the taste of the populace Is sure to be excluded from all Posts & If possible In every shape depriv'd of all power to Execute his purposes. Hence the measures of the Government are Irresolute, uncertain, fluctuating; one Assembly sitting but to reverse the doings of a former. The best laid Schemes are abortive If they In any Instance thwart the most Extravagant Views of the populace: And on the other hand the most pernicious purposes are Executed If by any means; by some plausible pretence, some fallacious covering the people can be Gull'd Into an Opinion that it will promote their private Interest. In Short Liberty Is here Licentiousness, a Junto rule & the true Anecdote of their Policy seems to be a tacit agreement between them & the people that the one shall Enjoy their own private Interest on Condition that the other are allow'd to live and act as they please. Whoever talks of a reform In the Government of Introducing the L[a]ws & Customs of Great Britain, of the power of our Sovereign, or even of a Parliament over us, Is Esteem'd a dangerous person, & Is pointed at as an Enemy to our Charter, the Liberties of the People & the Religion of the Country-- An Instance (among many others) of our bad Policy Is the Case of our Currency & the Disposition of the moneys granted us by act of Parliament on accompt of Cape Breton: Which money rightly Disposed, would have Intirely sunk our Paper Bills with the utmost Ease to the people, put us out of Debt & Establish'd a certain Valluable Currency; which no Doubt was one main View of y^e Government at home In granting it. But such Is our misfortune haveing a lower House In Debt Viz: by purchasing large Tracts of Land In view of an Easy payment by the Depreciation (whose Interest it Consequently Is to have a Depreciateing Currency) & an upper House who If they are not so themselves, & think right, Yet durst not Act themselves, or vigourously oppose the measures of the lower house for fear of looseing their places: this being I say the Case It Is much to be fear'd that all hopes of a better Currency will soon Vanish. At least such are the present measures, that unless prevented from home, the whole Sum will soon be Trifled away In Idle projects of Trade &c & never be applied to the purpose for which it was granted. By which means we shall be plung'd into a worse Situation than we were ever yet In; & that without hopes of redress, as we have neglected the only means for it that we can ever hope for.

Upon the whole such Is the Ill Situation of things among us, that I cannot but think (& I believe it to be the opinion of a great part of the Considerate persons In the Colony; tho' it Is amost as much as a

means Character & fortune Is worth to Speak it here) that it would be happy for us If the Government of the Colony were resumed Into the Hands of the Crown & a new Constitution Introduced among us. At least that the Common Law were Establish'd here that our Governours had a Negative & that the Council &c were not so absolutely Dependent upon the People--

[Samuel Johnson]

Rev^d S^t [?Secy. of the S.P.G.]

The Continued Insolencies of the Dissenters against the Church, do oblige me to write to the Society again-- So bold are they, that they seem to be determined and Resolved, if possible, to destroy the Church hereabouts, which is apparent by their ill usage to the Professors of it, Viz^t those of New Cambridge; for besides four of the Church Men of that place, which were made to pay to the Support of the Dissenting Minister, and which I mentioned in my last, some of the Rest of them have been made to pay as well. I Sued the Collector Thomas Hart Junier of New Cambridge for one of these, Viz^t Caleb Matthews Church Warden, before His Majestys Justice of Peace, John Humphreys Esq^r of Simsbury--but was Cast. The Cost amounted to 10^l.13^s, and which I refused paying and for which I know not Yet how they will deal by me-- I am sorry to see such Men as these of so good Character, and so well principled to the Church, to be so ill dealt by, and do hope they may be Remedied under their present Grievances.

William Gibbs

Simsbury in New England October 9th 1749.

Boston N E October 25th 1749

May it please your Lordship

We the Subscribers the Minister & Committee for rebuilding King's Chapel in this Town humbly beg Leave to represent to your Lordship that this Church which was the first erected in America for the Service of the Church of England is now through Time fallen into a State of irreparable Decay. For this Reason the Congregation have generously subscribed towards rebuilding it, but as it is a Work too expensive for a single Congregation, & especially as this Church has been look'd upon as the Mother of the rest and so constantly drain'd by yeilding Assistance to more infant Churches we are constrain'd to make applications to those whom divine Providence has favour'd with a Disposition to Works of this Nature and an Ability to promote them; If we presume to look upon your Lordship as enjoying these Advantages we beg Leave to hope the Fruit of our Opinion in your kind Notice of us & Benevolence to this Work of Piety we have in hand.

'Tis not meerly your Lordship's Bounty which we humbly promise our selves from this Address since we are assured your Example will influence many others to join their Assistance to a Work which your Lordship shall think proper to encourage.

Our kind & generous Friend S^t Henry Frankland informs us that your Lordship condescended to direct him when applying in our Favour to preferr a Memorial to his Majesty & encouraged him with your Lordship's Interest in making a favourable mention of it. That Gent^l accordingly put a Memorial of that Nature into the Hands of the R^t Hon^{ble} M^r Pelham & received his Promise of laying it before his Majesty, but as we do not find it is yet delivered we have wrote to his Excell^y our very worthy Gov^r now in England to revive

the Thing, who has not only generously subscribed but many other Ways given his best Countenance and Support to this Work & has encouraged us that he will continue to be mindful of us there, and as we know it will be much in your Lordship's Power so we beg Leave to hope your Lordship will add your own Influence to facilitate his Application.

We humbly beg pardon for the freedom of this Address to which nothing but our absolute Necessity would have embolden'd us, and take leave to add that we are with much Respect & Veneration--

May it please your Lordship your Lordship's most dutiful and obedient humble Serv^{ts}

Henry Caner	John Gibbins
Cha Apthorp	Silv. Gardiner
George Cradock	Thomas Hawding

Eliakim Hutchinson

[Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

To the Sheriff of the County of Hartford his Deputy or either of the Constables of the Town of Simsbury in the said County Greeting--

Whereas Thomas Hart Jun^r of Farmington in the County aforesaid obtained a Judgment against William Gibbs of Simsbury aforesaid Clerk, before me John Humphrey Esq^r one of His Majestys Justices of the Peace for the County afores^d on the Third Tuesday of Septem^r A: D: 1749, for the Sum of 10^l.13^s.4^d in Bills of Credit of the Old Tennor Cost as appears of Record, whereof Execution remains to be done

These are therefore in His Majestys Name to Command you that of the Money Goods or Chattles of the said William Gibbs you cause to be Levyed and the same being disposed of as the Law directs paid and Satisfied unto the said Thomas Hart Jun^r the aforesaid Sum of 10^l.13^s.4^d in Bills of Credit of the Old Tennor together with Eight Shillings more for this Writ, and thereof also Satisfy your Self for your own Fees, and for want of Money Goods or Chattles of the said William Gibbs to be by him Shewn unto you or found in your precincts for the Satisfying of the aforesaid Sums you are Commanded to take the Body of the said William Gibbs, and him Commit unto the Keeper of the Goal at Hartford in the County aforesaid within the said Prison, who is likewise hereby Commanded to Receive the said William Gibbs and him Safely keep untill he pay unto the said Thomas Hart Jun^r the full Sums above-mentioned and be Released by Order of Law and also Satisfie Your Fees hereof fail not and make due Return of this Writ with your Doings thereon within Sixty Days according to Law. Dated at Simsbury November the 16th 1749.

John Humphry Just. Pac^s

Rev^d S^r [Sec'y of the S.P.G.]

In my last, and which was but lately, I acquainted the Society of the Dissenters ill usage towards the Church Men of New Cambridge, in obliging them to pay to them. And when having demanded the Money of the Collector, was Refus'd the same and which put me upon Suing him before John Humphreys Esq^r one of His Majestys Justices of Peace in the Town of Simsbury for my Churchwardens Rate, Caleb Matthews, but was Cast; And for my Refusing to pay the Cost, an Execution has been out against me some time and is now brought and Served by Jonathan Humphreys Constable of that place of Simsbury, and am by him taken and brought to Hartford, and so put into the Goal, where I now am-- Thus presumptuous and bold are these Men in these parts, I

thought proper therefore to acquaint the Hon^{ble} Society of this--that so they might be moved to a due and Seasonable Consideration of Us, and do implore of them their Relief and help

William Gibbs

Hartford Goal Decem^r 28th 1749.

Boston in N England Jan^{ry} 31st 1750

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

I had the Honour of your Lordship's most kind Letter of the 13th of September; In which I observe with pleasure the Step your Lordship has taken for procuring Bishops to be sent to America.----I most heartily pray that we may be able to number the Accomplishment of this Attempt, among the many happy Instances of Success with which it has pleased God to bless your Lordship's pious Endeavours. I don't know any one Event which can render your Lordship's Name dearer to every sincere Lover of the Church of England in America than this. I cannot indeed promise my Self that the Dissenters here will have no Objection against it, but as your Lordship observes they can have no reasonable Excuse for giving Opposition to a Scheme which interferes not with any of their Interests. Some it may be fear'd would even rejoyce to see us excluded from the Benefit of a Toleration, but as they are not the wisest, so I hope and trust they are not the prevailing party among them. I most humbly thank your Lordship for the Intimation that I shall be notify'd when Things are settled upon some certain Foot. In the mean time I beg leave to assure your Lordship that I am

Your Lordship's most dutiful and most obedient Servant

Henry Caner

May it please your Grace

I did not receive your Graces most kind & condescending Letter of April 19 till the Fall was so far advanced that the Ships were all gone, before it returned to me from the Clergy, to whom I communicated it, & who live scattered abroad at various Distances. It was matter of very great Joy & Satisfaction to every one, & they all desire with me to return our most humble Thanks, & our most dutiful & affectionate acknowledgments for the great Honour your Grace hath done us in thus condescending so kindly to write to us, & to assure us, That whatever Interest you have, you desire to exert it all to the Service of God's true Religion, & the Interest & Honour of the Church of England & that even in these remote Countries,--where she still labours along, especially in this Charter Government, under great Difficulties & pressures; (as your Grace might observe from my last Letter to the Society, & will observe further from what I shall shortly write,) under which, however, your Grace's most kind Letter greatly revives & comforts us; & I am not without some Hopes that the Rumour of it may be some Inducement to our Government to favour our Request:-- But if they should refuse to grant us such a Law as we are about to solicit for, that may remedy our Difficulties, I fear we must humbly presume to beg your Grace's Direction & Assistance in laying them before his Majesty in Council.

I was very glad to understand by a Gentleman lately arived, that my Lord of London's Health is much mended; So that I hope his Lordship may be able to take some Cognizance of the Affairs of these plantations:-- However, the Distance & Difficulties are

so great, that nothing can so effectually promote the Honour & Interest of true Religion & the Church of England in these parts of the World, as the Settling Bishops here, more immediately to preside over us & protect us.-- It is therefore a mighty Satisfaction to us to be assured by your Grace, that your Solicitations shall not be wanting to give all possible Dispatch, that things may be settled here in some proper & effectual Method.-- May your Grace long live to such excellent purposes! & may we be permitted to enjoy some Interest in your Grace's Cares, prayers & Blessing.-- I am, may it please your Grace, your Grace's

most thankful, & most obedient & dutiful Son & humble Servant,

Samuel Johnson.

St[r]atford in New England

March the 5th 1749/50.

[Abp. Thos. Herring]

My Lord [Abp. Thos. Herring]

At the Request of My Rev^d Brethren the Clergy of this Province, I do my self the Honour to Return Our most humble Thanks for Your Graces Most kind Letter, communicated to us by the Rev^d Dr Johnson, the Receipt whereof, we Esteem It our Duty to Acknowledge; and Should be inexcusable in the least Defect of Gratitude, when Your Grace, in a Manner So full of Condescension, has Assur'd us of Your Paternal Regard for the Welfare of the Church of England in this Remote Part of the World.

We are much concern'd to find that my Lord of Londons Age & Infirmities have Oblidg'd Him to decline the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Brittish Colonies in America. But Your Graces Intimation that the Government will doubtless pay a just Attention to this Business soon, and the Kind Assurances that Your Solicitations shall not be wanting, to the Settling It in some proper and Effectual Method, Encourage us to Hope, that we may have Bishops appointed to preside over the Plantations, which We are persuaded will Most Effectually promote the Interest of Religion as profess'd in the Church of England

I Humbly beg an Interest in Your Graces Prayers and Benedictions and with the most Dutiful Respect to Subscribe my Self

May It Please Your Grace Your Graces Most Obedient Son & Servant

Hen: Barclay

City of New York April ye 9th 1750

At a General Meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Held on the 20th of April 1750. Present, His Grace the Lord Arch Bishop of Canterbury The Lords the Bishops of Peterborough, Bangor, and Gloucester M^c Spateman, D^r Mills, D^r Nicolls, The Dean of the Arches, M^c Paris, M^c Bethell, M^c Gellibrand, M^c Sydenham D^r Shuckford, M^c Barton, D^r Brakenridge, M^c Gordon M^c Randolph, Paul Humfrey Esq^r and D^r Hody. His Grace the Lord Arch Bishop of Canterbury in the Chair. Prayers....

It was Reported from the Committee that they had read the following Letters to them referr'd, Viz^t A Letter from the Rev^d M^c Caner, Minister of the Kings Chapel at Boston, Dated Boston Jan. 31st 1750, acquainting that pursuant to the Societys Directions he had waited on M^c Prince, Brother to M^c Prince late Missionary to the Moskito Indians, and found that he had sold all the Library given to that Mission, except

Mills's Testament and Septuagint, and two other Books Viz^t Schmidius's Concordance, and Wake on the Catechism; which he says never came to his Hands: M^c Prince says, that he thought the Books had been his Brothers Property; and that he has still in his Hands, a Number of Bibles and Common Prayer Books, and other small Tracts, which he declar'd he was ready to deliver to the Societys Order, but being acquainted that the Society had directed the Books, or the Price of them, to be deposited with M^c Caner, M^c Prince seem'd inclin'd to wait the Societys Order to himself, especially as he has wrote to the Society on this Subject, imagining that the Society may have paid themselves out of the Salary due to his late Brother; However M^c Caner will expect the Societys Order, what to do with the small Tracts, if M^c Prince should think proper to deliver them to him, and likewise in Regard to the Money for the Library if it should be paid there.

Whereupon it was Agreed to recommend to the Society, that M^c Caner be desir'd to enquire at what Price the Books sent to M^c Prince were sold, and that so much of the Money be stopp'd of the late M^c Princes Salary; and that M^c Prince, the surviving Brother be desir'd to deliver the Bibles, and Common Prayer Books, and small Tracts to M^c Caner for the Use of the Society. Resolved to Agree with the Committee.

A Letter from the Rev^d M^c Honeyman, Missionary at Newport in Rhode Island Dated Octo^r 13th 1749, acquainting that his Church which was Built about 27 Years ago is certainly the largest of any in those Parts, yet it is so crowded that they must either enlarge it beyond the Voice of a Speaker, or Build another for the Reception of such as cannot be accommodated in that Church; that he had spent the most of his Life in making known the Terms of Salvation to Sinners in those Parts, with uncommon Success, and was determin'd by divine Assistance to do it so long as he liv'd; and tho' his natural Strength did decay; yet he hop'd his Resolution, and Endeavours never would; that M^c Leaming whom the venerable Society had sent for his Assistant came in proper Time, and that he will take Care to improve him all he can in the great Work they are Ingaged in.

A Letter from the Rev^d D^r Macsparran, Missionary at Naraganset in New England Dated Jan. 3^d 1749, with his Notitia Parochialis, acquainting that he had drawn on the Societys Treasurer for 25[£] Sterling, in Favour of M^c Tho^s Sandford Merchant, in Order to Pay off Part of an Arrear due to M^c Paris, on Account of the Law Suit, a happy Issue of which would be of great Satisfaction to him; but if he should not live to see the Fruit of his Labour in that Matter, he has the Comfort to think that he has exerted himself to the Utmost of his Power to serve the Church in that and all other Instances: that Enthusiasm had since last Fall so increased in those Parts, that a celebrated Teacher among the Antipaedobaptists had catch'd the Infection, upon which the Meeting House is shut against him; and some of the Baptists of the best Fame and Figure, now and then frequent his Church, but as they are the most rigid of all the Sectaries, he dare not promise much for their Conformity; yet will endeavour all he can to reconcile them to that most excellent Church, from which they are so unhappily divided; that he had gone thro' his Parochial Duties with great Pain and Difficulty for many Months past, and is advised to Use the hot Waters at Bath or Bristol, for the Recovery of his Health; and hopes the Society will give him Leave to be absent from his

Mission six or eight Months; and he promises that his Mission shall be duly supplied in his Absence; and acquaints, that he has not yet receiv'd the Bible and Common Prayer Book for Warwick, nor the Primers, which he requested some Time ago. Whereupon it was Agreed to recommend to the Society that Dr Macsparran may have Leave to come to England for the Recovery of his Health, he taking Care that his Mission be duly supplied in his Absence; and that the Law Suit mentioned in Dr Macsparrans Letter be taken into further Consideration. Resolved to Agree with the Committee.

A Letter from the Rev^d Mr Plant Missionary at Newbury in New England, Dated Jan. 14th 1749/50 acquainting that there is no remarkable alteration in his Parish since he wrote last, only that the Seasons have been very uncommon there, the last Summer proving very hot and dry, and Winter Set in earlier and colder than was ever known in the Memory of Man; and that he had drawn for the Quarters Salary due at Christmas last.

A Letter from the Rev^d Mr Checkley Missionary at Providence in New England Dated 26th Dec^r 1749, with his Notitia Parochialis, by which it appears, that the Number of actual Communicants in Providence is 57, no Infants, nor Adult Persons Baptiz'd in this last Half Year, and that he had drawn for half a Years Salary.

A Letter from the Rev^d Mr Gibbs Missionary at Simsbury in New England Dated Oct^r 9th 1749, Setting Forth the Hardships laid upon the Professors of the Church of England in and about New Cambridge by the Dissenters, who oblige them to pay towards the Support of their Dissenting Teachers, several of whom had been committed to Hartford Goal for Refusal who afterwards paid what was demanded of them; whereupon he sued the Collector, Tho^s Hart Jun^r of New Cambridge for the Moneys extorted from Caleb Matthews Churchwarden; but was Cast with Costs, Amounting to the Sum of £10.13s.--which he refus'd to pay; Mr Gibbs further acquaints, that since October last, he had Baptiz'd at Simsbury 14 Infants, and in other Places 11 Infants, and 2 Adults, and had admitted one to the Holy Communion, but he finds the People very backward, they not having as yet provided him an House, according to their Promise,--not attempted any Thing towards it, which if they neglect much longer, he must be oblig'd to Petition the Honourable Society for a Removal.

A Letter from the same Gentleman Dated Hartford Goal, Dec^r 28th 1749, with a Copy of a Warrant of Execution against the Body and Goods of Mr Gibbs, Inclos'd, Sign'd John Humphrey Just^s Pac^s, and directed to the Sheriff of the County of Hartford, his Deputy, or either of the Constables of the Town of Simsbury, by Virtue of which he was taken and carried to Goal, with which he thought proper to acquaint the venerable Society, and to Implore their Releif, and Assistance. Whereupon it was Agreed to recommend to the Society to take into Consideration Mr Gibb's distress'd Circumstances, and to enquire whether the Inhabitants under his Care are not exempted from the Prosecutions he complains of.

A Letter from the Rev^d Mr Tho^s Wood Missionary to Elizabeth Town and New Brunswick in New Jersey, Dated Rhode Island 25th Jan. 1749, acquainting with his Arrival in that Harbour after a terrible Passage of 13 Weeks, and 2 Days being almost starved for Want of Provision, and are waiting for a fair Wind to sail for New York; that the Church of Rhode Island is in a very flourishing Condition and that he and Mr Carter officiated for Mr Honeyman the Sabbath Day preceding the Date of this Letter, when Mr Lemon Baptiz'd an Adult....

N: Groton 19 July 1750

My Good Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

I begg leave to recomend the Bearer Mr Copp as a person well deserving your Lordships kind offices having been personally acquainted with him for many years; and presume he will be very Instrumental in promoting of truth & Virtue, if he should be admitted to Holy Orders: the great necessity of Labourers in this part of the Christian Harvest, which is truly plenteous and the Labourers but few; also contrain me to joyn my Brethren in an Address to Your Lordship & the Venerable Society, & I shall no longer trespass upon your time & patience save only to Assure you y^t I am

With the greatest Respect My Lord your Lordships most Dutifull Son & Serv^t

Ebenez^r Punderson

At a General Meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Held on the 20th of July 1750.

It was Reported from the Committee, that they had read a Letter from the Rev^d Mr Mansfield, Missionary at Derby in Connecticut, Dated Derby Dec^r 26th 1749, acquainting, that the People of Derby and Oxford, as well as those of Waterbury and Westbury, have been Sharers in the great Oppressions which are laid upon the Members of the Episcopal Church in that Colony by Means of the Dissenting Collectors Distraining their Goods, towards the Support of the Dissenting Teachers, and their Meeting Houses; but notwithstanding this, his Congregation adheres steadily to the Church; and the Number of the Communicants in Derby is 69, in Waterbury 77, and he had Baptiz'd in the preceding Half Year 24 Children.

Whereupon the Committee Inspected a Minute of the Society of the 17th of Novem^r 1749, wherein the Society resolve to protect the Members of the Church of England, in New England in all their just and legal Rights. [N.B. These sort of complaints come, by every ship almost, & there are now some Ministers of the Ch. of England in prison on account of these prosecutions from the Dissenters.]

The Charter of the Colony of Connecticut in N. England was granted on the 23^d day of April in the fourteenth year of the Reign of King Charles the second; & Power was given by it to John Winthrop, John Mason, & others to become a Body Corporate & Politick by the name of the Governours & Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America, & as such to have a Perpetual Succession & Common Seal, & to choose annually on every second Thursday in May a Governour, a Deputy Governour & 12 Assistants, to make reasonable Laws not contrary to the Laws of England; & to revoke the same as by the general Assembly, or the major part of them shall be thought fit, & to do all other matters & things, whereby the People inhabitants there may be so religiously peaceably, & civilly governed, as their good Life & orderly Conversation may win & invite the Natives of the Country to the Knowledge and Obedience of the only true God & Saviour of Mankind, & of the Christian Faith.

Complaint is made, that several Members of the Church of England in this Province have been cast into Prison by the Magistrates for the non payment of Taxes expressly assess'd & rais'd for the building & support of Presbyterian meeting-houses, &

their Teachers. N.B. It is asserted, that the Independents also are thus harrass'd on the same account, but Quakers & Anabaptists are excus'd.

[Philip Bearcroft]

New London in New England July 20th 1750

To the Right Reverend Father in God the Lord Bishop of London [Thos. Sherlock]--

We the Subscribers, Missionaries of the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in foreign Parts, beg Leave to certify to Your Lordships, That the Bearer M^r Johnathan Copp is twenty five Years old; has commenc'd Bachelor in one of the Colleges here; has taught Latin, Greek, & the Mathematicks in the Town of New London with Credit & Applause; is known to be a Person of strict Virtue & good Morals, firmly attached to his Majesty King George & his illustrious House; & from a very rigid Independent has read & canvased himself into a conscientious & thorough Conformity to our most excellent Church, to y^e Loss of very considerable temporal Expectations.

This Person, My Lord, having resolv'd to throw himself upon y^e Providence of God, Your Lordship's & the Venerable Society's Compassions, We cannot, in Justice to his Virtue, Merit, & Motives to Conformity, decline, at his earnest Instance, recommending to Your Lordship for holy Orders, & to y^e Honourable Society for their Encouragement: he being, as we humbly apprehend, fit for any Mission, that may happen to be vacant, whether in New-England, or y^e new Settlements in Nova Scotia.

We are, My Lord, Y^r Lordship's
most obedient Sons & Servants

Ebenezer Dibblee
Joseph Lamson
Samuel Seabury

James Macsparran
Matt Graves
Ebenezer Punderson

May it please your Lordship

The Bearers hereof M^r Icabod Camp & M^r Jonathan Colton being about to embark for England to wait on your Lordship for Holy Orders, We the Subscribers who have well known them for more than three years past, can with great truth & Satisfaction give them the following Testimonial; (viz) that they have been Educated & Graduated Masters of Arts at Yale Colledge in New-Haven, where they were always esteem'd Persons of very good Abilities & Industry in their Studies, & Improvement in their Learning, for their time & the Condition of Learning in these Countries, & of Sincere Piety & Virtue in all their Behaviour. They have conformed to our best of Churches for Several years, & Allways Shewn a Steady and becoming zeal. M^r Camp is a Married Man, & M^r Colton a Batchelor, both of more than Sufficient age for Holy Orders, & of undoubted Attachment to his Majesties Person & Government, & to our excellent Constitution both in Church & State.

We are May it please your Lordship Your Lordships
most Dutifull Sons & most Humble Servants

Samuel Johnson
James Wetmore
Ebenezer Punderson
Ebenezer Thompson
Joseph Lamson
Richard Mansfield

New Haven in New England
Sep^r 13th 1750
[Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

scribing before, being again together, would humbly signifie our Continuance in the same Opinion of them as we before expressed, in which the others would doubtless still concurr if they were present

Samuel Johnson
Ebenezer Punderson
Richard Mansfield

New Haven Sept. 11. 1751.

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

Your Lordship's Letter of September 19th containing a Copy of a general Letter from your Lordship to the Commissaries of our late Right Reverend Diocesan, I received just at the end of February last, with a Thankfulness due to your Lordship's Zeal and Activity for the Benefit of the poor infant Churches in America, a Thankfulness I am far from being singular in. I wish I were more able to say any to the Ease & Success of your Lordship's painful Endeavours for us: but in obedience to your Lordship shall say what I can.

I doubt I can relate nothing in the Jurisdiction exercised here during the time the late Bishop of London acted under a Patent from the Crown. Once our Commissary went to New London, upon some Uneasiness about the late reverend M^r Morris: but M^r Morris voluntarily ended all by quitting the Place. The Commissary also went to Newbury upon some Difficulties about a new Church there: but there was no formal Hearing, nor is there any Issue. The unhappy Case of M^r Roe belonging to the Chapel might have had a formal Consideration if he had not immediately departed to England. And this quashed the Consideration of another affair relating to him, which his Lordship referred to the Cognisance of y^e Commissary of South Carolina, to which M^r Roe was ordered to repair. As to that of M^r Whitefield judicially considered by that Commissary, your Lordship may have a perfect Account from him at your pleasure. I can adde no more upon this head, than that upon the Commissary's Call, there have been Annual Meetings of the Clergy, mainly taken up in relating the State of our Parishes, and in consulting and advising one another. And I cannot suppose that what I have mentioned respecting New England hath raised any uneasy Speculations or Remarks among our Dissenters.

My Lord, I never saw the Patent granted our late Diocesan. Upon your Lordship's Letter I have applied to our Commissary for a sight of it; but he has mislaid it where it cannot be found: nor can I apply myself else where nearer for a sight of it than to New York, 300 miles distant from this Place; but M^r Vesey the former Commissary of that Place beeing dead, I despair of Success.

I have, My Lord, with several of my Brethren, subjoyn'd to the Proposals of sending Bishops, one or more, to reside in America, our humble Opinion of that Affair, and beg leave to adde further what follows:

That in all Probability, this objection, tho' not openly avowed, yet not very latent, outweighs all the rest, That the Church of England growing very much in it's imperfect State, would much more grow, compleated by the Residence of a Bishop, that our Increase would be out of the Societies of the Dissenters, perhaps to the Breaking up of some of them, or to their greater Burden in supporting of them; That these Colleges would be Nurseries of Episcopal Clergymen; That many Teachers might depart from the Dissenters into the Church; That many Churchmen scattered throughout almost all our Towns, but very much

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

These young Gentlemen having delayed their voyage till this Fall, We the Subscribers of the Number sub-

concealed for the sake of a quieter and more agreeable Subsistence among their Neighbours, might take heart to shew themselves, and that Civil Preferments would not be so confin'd as they are at present.

My Lord, We ought to acquiesce in what Portion of Authority shall be assign'd to an American Bishop; but should be glad to be no more layd open to the Encroachments of our People on us than the Clergy in England are. Else, I presume, the Case may be, That we must give up our Rights, or be crusht in the Struggle.

If an American Bishop may have no Temporal Authority, nor derive any Temporal Benefits from America, we yet hope that Provision may be made for him in proportion to his Character, so as not to be cramp't in the Discharge of his Duty, but that he may be enabled to pass through it with Respect and Veneration, and to bear the Charges of Travail, and of the great Resort that will necessarily be made to him.

Wherever Bishops are placed in America, we ought all to thank God for it. But I lay myself very low for your Lordship's Pardon, fond of a few Remarks upon Barring the Settlement of Bishops in Places where the Government is in the hands of Dissenters, as in New England &c.

That in those Places, the Members of the Church, and the Church itself is peculiarly injured; and there we eminently need a Bishop to appear in our Favor, and upon Occasion to represent our Case home.

That universal Experience tells us, That the nearer the Church is to the Dissenters, the more it prevails, their Prejudices wear away, Misrepresentations are taken off or prevented, People better know what the Church is, and better esteem it. This is evident from the monstrous Ideas of our Church in our distant Country Towns, which have no place in those bordering on us.

That setting aside the Staunch Dissenters, Multitudes long for the settlement of y^e Church in New England, and of Bishops: many Teachers: some that now are not called Churchmen: some that are no further Churchmen than as they think it the best constituted Church, & the only Remedy for the Infidelity, Errors, Heresies and Disorders now prevailing among us.

That tho' many parts of America are tolerably healthful, yet that the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and so on Northward, even to New found Land, hath the Preference given to it by all; and therein is the most plentiful Supply of Provisions of any Parts, abounding in Fish of all kinds; numerous in People; and Boston may be esteemed reasonably Central, there being, as I am told, Settlements 200 miles to the Northward of us, and if the Settlement of Nova Scotia goes on, it will make a mighty Encrease.

My Lord, Did the Weight of this Letter answer the Length of it, it would have a stronger Title to your Lordship's Acceptance: But your Lordship's Judgement and Candor go together. And this is Encouragement to hope for the Benefit of your Pardon and Blessing on

Your Lordship's most dutiful, obedient Son and Servant

Timothy Cutler

Boston New England April 24. 1751.

Boston May 6th 1751

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock],

I had the Honour of your Lordship's Letter of the 19th of September last, with a Copy inclosed of one written to the late Bishop of London's Commissaries; In which your Lordship requires the Information of

your Clergy in these Parts "how the Jurisdiction has been carried on during the Time that the late Bishop of London acted under a Patent from the Crown." As I have never seen a Copy of the late Bishop's Patent, nor even of the Instructions given to his Commissary in this District, it is impossible for me to say any thing upon the Subject. Indeed it has generally been apprehended here, that the late Commissary had no Authority to act at all, as I am told he never qualified himself, by exhibiting his Commission to the Governor, or other proper Officer and by taking Oath before such Officer for the due Execution of his Trust which I think the Laws here require of every Person in Cases of this or a like Nature. I most humbly thank your Lordship for the Care and Activity you have shown in order to procure Bishops for the Plantations; And I am sorry to find that a thing so reasonable, and of such Importance to the Interest of Religion in this part of the World should meet with Opposition. As the Jurisdiction required is only to extend to the Clergy, it can interfere with no civil Interests, nor create any Difficulties in the Administration of these Governments. Nor do I know any Objections against the Scheme propos'd among the Dissenters here, but what arises from their general Dislike of the Church of England. Some indeed with whom I have convers'd, even among the dissenting Teachers, have privately intimated their Desires of having Bishops in America, as imagining they might obtain the Favour of Episcopal Orders, without being obliged to full Conformity.

There is one Concession in the Scheme propos'd for establishing Bishops in America, which I humbly beg leave to mention, because to me it appears greatly to diminish their expected Influence and Usefulness viz: "That no Bishops be sent to New England, or to places where the Government is in the Hands of Dissenters." This I apprehend would rather be sending a Physician to the whole than the Sick, since I suppose the Wisdom Learning and Piety usually attending the Episcopal Character, must go a great Way towards meliorating the Dissenters, and preserving Peace and Order in Our own Churches settled among them. That some Clergymen of less Prudence than might be wisht; And others not altogether unexceptionable either as to Principles or Morals, have sometimes been settled in this part of the world is but too well known. And if the Reason why proper Measures have not been used, to prevent any bad Effects of their Misconduct, was owing to the Want of sufficient Authority in the Commissaries, 'tis Pity but it should be remedied, if any future Commission of that sort should be renew'd. 'Tis certain nothing of this kind has ever been done in this Districts, whether owing to an easiness of Temper in the Commissary, or to the want of sufficient Authority, I am not able to say. Upon this Head, (as they are honestly meant, and most humbly offer'd,) I beg your Lordship will indulge me in putting down the following Queries viz:

1. Whether if Commissaries be re[e]stablished in America, it be not convenient, that each Commissary should have Authority to require an Annual Convention of the Clergy in his District; and likewise a special Convention at any other time if the Necessities of the Church, or the Importance of the Case demand it.

2. Whether at such annual Conventions the Commissaries may not require of the Clergy, a particular State of their Churches, in order to their receiving mutual Advice from one Another, and Direction from the Commissary for the better Regulation and Conduct of them.

3. Whether it might not be proper to keep a Record of what is transacted at these Conventions, and whether such a Record might not in time contain such a Variety of Cases, as to be of great Use for removing Obstructions, and facilitating a laudable Discharge of the Pastoral Office.

4. Whether the Commissary may not have Authority to admonish, and if the Case seem to require it, to suspend, ab Offices at least, and pro Tempore, (that is, till he can inform his Diocesan) any clergyman whose bad Conduct may appear to him, and to such others of his Brethren whom he shall call to give their Advice in the Case, to deserve such Censure.

5. Whether a prudent Execution of these and two or three other such Rules, or something equivalent, might not have a good Influence in preserving the Clergy from any great Misconduct, and securing to them that Respect and Veneration which by Gods Blessing may give Success to their Labours. And as the Consequence of all this, in some Measure lessen your Lordship's Burden, as to the Care of these distant Churches.

I am afraid your Lordship will think I am got out of my Province; tho' all I intend by it is, that as I have not seen the Instructions by which Jurisdiction has hitherto been exercis'd over these Churches, I might yet in some Measure answer your Lordships Commands, by throwing together a few Observations upon what I imagine would render the Office of a Commissary useful among us. If I have stumbled upon any thing which may give Light to your Lordships Enquiry, my End is answer'd; if not, I will only beg Pardon for a Zeal perhaps too Officious, with leave to subscribe myself

Your Lordships most dutiful most Obedient & most humble Servant

Henry Caner

May it please your Lordship [Bp. Sherlock]

We the Subscribers, being well acquainted with the Condition both of Middletown with Wallingford & Hebron with places adjacent & with the Characters of Mess^{rs} Camp & Colton, the Bearers hereof, whoin we several of us, with some others, have recommended to your Lordship for holy Orders; beg leave to represent, That in our humble Opinion, it is of great Importance to the Interest of Religion, that these places be admitted to have each an Incumbent resident among them in holy Orders, being 30 miles distant from any Minister of the Church of England.-- And, as these places have given Security for 30^l Sterling per ann. Middletown & to M^r Camp, & Hebron & to M^r Colton, which they are willing to accept of; We humbly desire they may be admitted to holy Orders for Incumbents to those places.-- The Support is indeed but slender, & we wish the Society were in a Condition to make some addition to it; but as they are not at present, we hope this, (together with the Glebe which each of them have,) may tolerably subsist them for the present while they are young, & that the Society will in due time, be able to contribute towards their Support.-- We are, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most dutiful Sons & most obedient humble Serv^{ts}

Samuel Johnson
Ebenezer Punderson
Richard Mansfield

N.B. Several others we know would subscribe this if they had Opportunity, which could not be well by reason of their Distance.

New-haven in New England
September 11th 1751--

Hebron November y^e 6th 1751

May it please your Lordship [Bp. Sherlock]

We the Subscribers your Lordships most Dutifull and humble Servants Members of the Church of England in Hebron in the Colony of Conecticut, Beg leave to represent to your Lordship the State and Circumstances of our Church in Hebron and also to Recommend the Bearer hear of M^r Jonathan Colton for holy Orders, our Church is thirty miles distant from any Minister of the Church of England so that we Cannot have one among us above three or four times a year in these difficult Circumstances wee have Lived near fifteen years being encouraged by the Clargy that the Society would probably soon do something for us-- But now seeing no certain prospect of it wee have at Last Determined to exert our selves to the utmost and to maintain a Minester ourselves at our one Charge if the Society are not in a Condition to help us, and wee are encouraged hear in by D^r Johnson who informs us that he hath Received a Letter from your Lordship wherein your Lordship informs him that you would give holy orders to Any person who Come[s] properly recommended with a Bond for thirty pounds sterling yearly-- Accordingly wee have given a Bond to the Bearer hear of M^r Jonathan Colton who Came to us to read prays allmost four years ago by the Direction of D^r Johnson and M^r Punderson and hath been with us ever since wee think him to be from almost four years Experience a Person of Sound Belief Great prudence and good Morals and wee do believe that he will be truly and Emimently usefull both to the Church of England in hebron and the Adjacent places who are now Destitute of a Minister if your Lordship shall think fit to put him into holy orders which is the hearty Desire and prayer of, May it please your Lordship, your Lordships, Most Dutiful and obedient humble Servants

John Merrill	Stephen Houghton
William Pernock	Eliphalet Case
Thomas Wells	Samuel Pernock
Thomas Wells juner	Jonathan Brown
Richard Curtice	Robert Cocke
Azariah Brown	Rich^d Cruch jun
Nathaniel Brown	Joseph Peters
Thomas Brown	John Man
Abner Browne	Ebenezer Haughton
John Warner	John Chambe[rlin]
Roger Dewey	Daniel Jones
Joseph Young	Christopher Crouch
Joseph Man	Richard Crouch
Thomas Rowlee	Adam Waters
Thomas Rolley	Samuel Waters
Nathan Rowell	Abner Waters
Eben ^r Haughton	John Peters

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

When I recollect the regard your Lordship has been pleas'd to express for me, as a Fellow Collegian; your declared inclination to do what lies in your power to serve me, & make my situation easie, I cannot forbear concluding I have some title to lay my difficulties before y^r Lordship.

This is the fifth year of my being the Kings chaplain here, & the pay for y^e first year is still outstanding. I not knowing that it was customary for the first years salary to lie unpaid, drew for it quarterly as (I imagined) it came due: which not being yet paid, & I having no other dependance, has laid me under very great straits, from which I cannot be relieved until that years salary be paid; to

which I believe your Lordships interposition wou'd greatly concur, & in which I believe M^r Sandford my very good friend & agent, w^d to his power be assistant wherein your Lordship sh^d command him.

In a former letter I beg'd the Honour of being appointed your Lordships Commissary, to which your only objection then was, your not hearing from M^r Price, who had, lately quitted the Kings Chappel, & removed to his Mission at Hopkinton: it is now said he is going for England to reside upon his living there, so that now there must be a vacancy, and indeed I have flatter'd myself with y^e hopes of being thereto appointed from an expression in your Lordships last favour, which was, "that you w^d give me directions with relation to the Church of England in the plantations." For these I have impatiently waited, purely to give your Lordship all the convincing prooffs in my power, of a diligent & punctual discharge of any trust you sh^d repose in me. This district contains the Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island & Providence, Connecticut, & New Hampshire Governm^{ts}: And as it contains these four Governments, it must be a considerable expence to visit these churches, which must occasionally be done, to prevent those irregularities that have crept in, even in this interval of the commissorial visitation. One whereof is permitting, or rather encouraging unordained persons, to read Prayers & Sermons publicly in vacant churches, or in y^e absence of the Incumbent, by which, the office of ordination is render'd if not altogether unnecessary, at least contemptible.

I shall not now trouble your Lordship any farther, than to assure you that y^r long life here, & Eternal happiness hereafter is the constant Prayer of,

My Lord Your Most Dutiful and Most Obedient Humble Servant

Charles Brockwell

Boston N E Oct^r 2^d 1751

Boston Oct^r 15th 1751

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

The Design of this is to recommend to your Lordship's Notice the Bearer M^r Jonathan Colton who waits upon your Lordship for holy Orders, if he be thought worthy to be admitted thereto. He was educated at Yale College in Connecticut, and is now a Master of Arts of some Years standing. His Time since he left the College has been chiefly employed, in preparing himself for the Service of the Church, in which Service I have good Hopes he will be truly useful, if your Lordship shall think fit to admit him to holy Orders.

I have known him for more than three Years past, and believe him to be a Person, of sound Belief, great Prudence and good Morals and well attach'd to the present Establishment in Church and State. The People of Hebron who solicit for him, have been long labouring to obtain the Benefit of a settled Ministry, but have met with many Dissappointments. They have been taken Notice of by the Society for propagation of the Gospel, and for some Time flatter'd themselves with being erected into a Mission but have now exerted themselves to the utmost, and given Security for the Payment of Thirty Pounds Sterling P^r Annum to M^r Colton if your Lordship shall think proper to appoint him to that Church.

With him also one M^r Camp purposes to wait on your Lordship for the like favour and for an Appointment at Middletown in Connecticut. This Gentleman I am told, bears a good Character but as I have no personal Knowledge of him shall forbear to say any thing more.

I am may it please your Lordship Your Lordship's most dutiful and obedient humble Servant

Henry Caner

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

M^r Colton of Hebron embarking for London to wait on your Lordship for Holy Orders, I presume to follow him with my best Wishes, and to deliver to your Lordship the good Opinion I have of him. I can pretend only, My Lord, to an agreeable Acquaintance with him for the little Time that I have known him: but if his Reputation had been any wise slurred in the Places of his Nativity or Residence, I suppose I must have heard of it: and therefore I do, wth all Submission, hope, That he will be countenanced by your Lordship in his present Design, and prove a Blessing to the People that desire him.

The whole Church in America is very sensible of, and much indebted to your Lordship's Zeal for us, which if it be not succeeded on Earth, we pray it may be rewarded in Heaven. There also, I humbly hope, your Lordship is making Interest for us, particularly for,

May it please your Lordship, your Lordship's most humble obedient Son and Servant

Timothy Cutler

Boston N. Eng. Oct. 16. 1751.

Groton. 14th Novemb^r 1751.

My Good Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

As I was esteem'd worthy of, and Admitted to Holy Orders by the late never to be forgotten Bp. Gibson your worthy Predecessor, and Appointed by the Venerable Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts An Itinerant Missionary in New-England: In the Discharge of which Sacred Office have been exercising my Self both in Season and out of Season, by the Divine Benediction so great success has attended my Labours that near one thousand Persons have been brought to embrace our most excellent Chh. by my Ministrations. Many have been the Difficulties I have had to encounter but none greater than in my endeavours to protect in their Just Rights & Priviledges my Children for as such I look upon all those who have submitted themselves to my Pastoral Care at the expence of more than 150^l our money have complain'd to the Venerable Society, within this 6 months past have had eight Suits at Law with the Dissenting Collect^{rs} and have another w^c they bring to the County Court by an Appeal to be Determin'd this Insta[n]t Nov^r being determin'd to do all I can, until the Venerable Society Sends a perfect freedom from the Oppressions.

With Humble Respects I beg leave to recommend to your Lordships known Candor & favour the bearers of this Letter M^{essrs} Camp & Colton as they are Persons I have long known, & known to behave very exemplarily and as becomes Candidates for Holy Orders which they Wait upon your Lordship to Receive; And as I am well acquainted with the places over which they are to be appointed, can Assure your Lordship of the great necessity of Clergymen there, and that my Labours will thereby be much Alleviated; And the Church greatly refreshed and Soon enlarged by their Diligence & pious Labours. Presume your Lordship will be most ready to give them Holy Orders & your Blessing, which I also entreat for myself, & am

My Lord Your Lordships most Faithfull Son & Servant

Ebenez^r Punderson

New London N. E. 10 Dec^r 1751.

My Lord

To the Trouble of a Short letter by the Bearers Mess^{rs} Camp, & Colton--I shall humbly add a few lines.--being informd that the Rev^d M^r Graves had objected, to M^r Colton's Admission to Holy Orders.-- I waited last evening upon M^r Graves in company with Mess^{rs} Camp & Colton--where M^r Colton said that He knew not that he had given M^r Graves any Occasion of Offence, either by word, or Deed; & y^t if he had said, or done any thing Amiss of him; He was willing to make Reasonable Satisfaction.-- M^r Graves was very bitter against him: & both refused to tell him y^e Objections which He had against him, or whether He would inform against Him.-- I was really Sorry to find him averse to M^r Colton, & to the Clergy of this Country, whenas we have taken all Imaginable pains & Care, to keep in good terms with Him-- I only add that with the utmost Sincerity I can assure your Lordship, that as I believe him very deserving of Holy Orders; so that he will be very Serviceable in Christs Chh at Hebron if he obtains them.

That your Lordship may Long be continued a Blessing, & Benefit, to our Chh: in that or a more exalted Station is the fervent prayer of

My Good Lord your Lordships most Dutyful & Faitfull Son & Servant

Ebenezer Punderson

[Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

S^t Pauls Deanery London Feb. 27. 1752

Good D^r Johnson

I am very sorry that I have neither performed y^r desire of procuring a degree for M^r Chandler nor answered y^r Letter sooner. But I hope you will see reason to excuse me. On his first application to me I engaged the BP of Norwich to ordain him wth the BP of Londons approbation: for I was going myself into Oxfordshire. There I mentioned y^r Request in his behalf to sev^l heads of houses who promised their Assistance but wished he had brought a certificate of the Degree w^{ch} he rec^d abroad. Ab^t the same time he wrote to me to desire that I w^d ordain him bec. he believed the BP of N. w^d be too much engaged with the P^r of W. I returned him answer that the BP had promised me to do it: & that I was for some time otherwise employed in my Diocese taking it for granted that he w^d afterw^{ds} come to O. as he had told me he intended. But I heard nothing more of him till on my return to Town. D^r Bearcroft told me he had been ordained by the BP of N & was gone back; still I apprehend a degree may be obtained in transmitting a Certificate of that w^{ch} was conferred on him in N. E. & a recommendatory Letter from one or more of the Episcopal Clergy there w^{ch} may be directed either to me or to the BP of Bristol who is likewise Dean of Ch Ch.

You receive I doubt not constant acc^{ts} from D^r B & others concerning the state of the Society Affairs here. Our fund is reduced at pres^t very low & last years benefactions have been very small. God incline the hearts of men to liberality at the approaching gen^l Collection. The K. hath given 500^l. I wish it had been more. But I know not whether his predecessors have given any thing. I am reprinting on this occasion my Sermon before the Society in hopes it may do some good & shall give a copy to each minister of a parish in my Diocese. It will be of use to us to receive as early as possible both acc^{ts} & copies of w^{tever} is printed in y^r parts relating to the concerns of the Society. The Dissenters here have lately had

some things of this kind before us & I think we have had y^m only thro' their hands. Concerning the important scheme of establishing B^{ps} abroad I can at pres^t give y^u no encouraging prospect. We must endeavour again wⁿ we see opportunity & pray always that He who hath put the times & seasons in his own power w^d in the time that he sees proper revive that & every part of his work amongst us. For indeed Religion continues to decay most lamentably. But we know that all things work together for Good & that the K^{ms} of this world shall become the K^{ms} of our L^d & of his X. I am with great esteem & regard

Sir yr loving bro. & humble serv^t
T O

[i.e., Thomas Secker, Bp. of Oxford]

To the Rev^d D^r Johnson
at Stratford New England

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Sherlock]

I am very happy in your Lordship's Interpretation of my Words and Actions, and humbly acknowledge that Instance of your Goodness in your Letter of last April the 21st. The more may be said in behalf of your Lordship's generous Zeal, and our Desires for Episcopacy among us, the more will justify our Sorrow under the Defeat of them: but God's Time is best, and your Lordship's Reward is sure.

Under this Want we groan for Unity as well as other Blessings. This has given Trouble to your Lordship in the Case of M^r Colton; whose Merits I thought to require all that I said of him, nor can't depart from it, and I doubt not but he would have shamed Censure & Reflection, and have universally recommended himself by a serious inoffensive Behaviour, and a prudent conscientious Application to his Duty as a Christian and a Minister, if God had not blasted our Hopes by y^e Small Pox of which he died in his Passage to us May the 8th a Distemper that has proved very fatal to us, and makes very heavy Impressions on the minds of our Candidates crossing the Seas for Holy Orders.

We sincerely think, and pray for, the Continuance of your Lordships Life and Health as of happy Consequence to the Church every where, and beg leave to promise our selves Your Lordship's Affectionate Returns: so particularly doth,

My Lord Your Lordship's most obliged, thankful, and obedient Son and Servant

Timothy Cutler

Boston New England July 1st 1752

My Lord [Bp. Thos. Secker]

Having frequently heard your Lordship represented as a Kind Patron to such Gentlemen as have gone from America to England to receive Holy Orders, I have made bold to recommend the Bearer M^r William Smith as a Gentleman I have reason to think will not prove Unworthy Your Lordships favourable Notice: He was Educated at Aberdeen, and has resided upwards of two Years in this Province; His Moral Character has been Unblemishd & his Deportment altogether Amiable amongst us: The progress he has made in Literature seems Extraordinary, considering his Youth, as Appears by the neat Plan of Polite Education he has favour'd us with for Our Intended Seminary. He proposes, soon after his Arival at London, to Visit Oxford, and devote some Time there to the Study of Divinity, in which Your Lordships Countenance and Recommendation will be of great Service to Him. I Humbly beg Your Lord-

